

Observations on British wool, and the
manufacturing of it in this kingdom

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Observations on British WOOL, AND THE Manufacturing of it in this KINGDOM.

With REMARKS on the
WOOL, and Woollen Manufactories of
France, Flanders and Holland, &c.

Shewing the Nature of the British WOOL in its full Perfection, and its Peculiar Goodness, exceeding all other *Combing Wool*, and the *Advantages* we may have from it; the *Loss* and *Ruin* it will inallibly bring to this NATION, by being *Run* into Foreign Parts, and how and why it is *Destructive*: With the *Rise* and *Progress* of the Woollen Manufactories Abroad, occasion'd by its being *Run*.

To which is annex'd,

A *Playcart or Proclamation*, for Preserving the Woollen Manufactures in Flanders, publish'd in the Year 1731.

Also a SCHEME for preventing our WOOL from being Owled Abroad for the future, if put in Practice.

By a Manufacturer of Northamptonshire.

Never before Publish'd.

L O N D O N : 1738

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THE P R E F A C E.

THE Reason that first excited me to make Observations relating to the Exportation of Wool in a clandestine Manner from England, was in 1723, I being at Newport in the Isle of Wight, a selling of some Worsted Stuffs that I made then in that Neighbourhood, and hearing that there was a Parcel of good Combing Wool to be sold in that Town; I went to the Merchant that was the Owner of it, who soon shew'd it to me, which was very good Combing Wool, and a fine Hair, tho' not so long as the Wool of some other Counties in England, yet it was fit for some sorts of Goods that I then made; I asked him the Price of it? Who said it was 16s. and 6d. per Todd, which, according to the Custom of that Place, is 29 Pounds; this sort of Wool was worth all the Money he asked at that time; but not having occasion for so great a Quantity of Wool of that sort as that was, (there being upwards of a Thousand Todd) I agreed to give him his Price, if he would let me have five or six Packs: To which

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he answer'd, that he would not part the Parcel, but would sell it altogether: I told him it was too great a Quantity for my own Use, but that if he would not sell it to any other Person, I would give him an Answer in about a Fortnight's time; to which he agreed, and I apply'd to some of my Friends in those Parts, viz. at Rumsey, Ringwood, &c. and found as many Persons as I thought proper to divide the Wool amongst us, about the time that I appointed the Wool Merchant to give him an Answer: I went into the Island again, and told him, that if he would abate me 3 d. a Todd, I would take his whole Parcel of Wool, and pay him Ready-Money upon the Delivery of the Wool. To which he answered, he had sold it all some Days before, to one Person: At that Time I knowing all the Tradesmen of Note in those Parts, it put me upon enquiring who bought so large a Quantity of that sort of Wool? But at length, to my Surprise, I found it was all sent to France.

ABOUT Two Years after this happen'd, my Business call'd me to Holland, when I saw a Ship-load of our Wool landed at Rotterdam, and was consign'd to Messrs. Stevens and Franklin, two Merchants that was Partners in that Town; one Josias Ockenden, and the Honourable H—. B— saw the same; I brought a Lock of the Wool away with me.

April 26, 1731. I went from Dover to Boulogne with Captain Joseph Montz; when we arrived at Boulogne, I saw a large Quantity of Worsted landed out of the Vessel I went over in, and the Worsted was sent to one Madam Mariane's House in the said Town.

October 1, 1731. I saw a great many Packs of English Wool landed out of a Hamburgh Ship upon Dunkirk Keys.

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July 20, 1732. I saw a Sloop full loaded with our Wool, landed on Dunkirk Keys, and was consign'd to Mr. Benezett, a Merchant of that Town.

November 25, 1733. I saw a great many Packs of Irish Wool landed upon the Keys at Ostend, out of a Brigantine, call'd the Two Brothers, that belong'd to Cork, Warren Knapps, Master.

November 3, 1734. There was a Vessel arrived at Dunkirk; that came from Amsterdam, and brought above 100 Packs of English Wool, and was landed on Dunkirk Keys, and was immediately put upon Carriages that was lying in the Basueale, ready to carry this Wool to Lisle; those Waggon brought Bales of Stuffs and Stockings to Dunkirk from Lisle, which was shipt on board French Vessels, that was bound to Cadiz in Spain. I have seen many Hundred Bales of Woollen Goods come from Lisle to be shipt at Dunkirk to Spain, &c. I also saw one Mahoney, that came from Cork, that landed Wool out of the same Vessel he brought Beef over into Dunkirk.

IN 1735. I saw a large Schoot loaded with British Wool, a passing between Newport and Bridges, this Wool was landed at Newport; and, if I am rightly informed, that the greatest Part of the Wool that is Owled from England to Flanders, is landed at that Place; there being no English in that Town, to be Spies upon their Honest Countrymen.

Amsterdam, July 16, 1736. I saw some English Wool landed out of a Dutch Vessel; there was more than 100 Packs, I got a Lock of the Wool, as I did of all that ever I saw landed Abroad. I had with me at that time, one Mr. Edsaw, whom I desir'd to take Notice of the Time this Wool was landed: I made some Enquiry where this Wool came

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I came from, and found it was brought from some Part of the North of Great Britain; it was excellent Combing Wool. These are a few Instances, to shew, that the Foreigners have our Wool Owled over to them in divers Parts of these Countries abroad. There was several Manufacturers of my Acquaintance, who are now in England, what was with me at most of the Times that I have named, who have seen Wool landing abroad: I could give a greater Number of Proofs of the Wool being landed abroad; but hope these few set down, will convince those that say the French have good Wool enough of their own Growth, and to spare some to the Hollanders, &c. and also those that say that there is no Wool sent into Foreign Parts, from Great Britain. But it is too obvious, that Foreigners have British Combing Wool at this time. And it is my Opinion, the French, &c. never can contrive to have such Wool grow'd as ours is, that will support their Fabricks of Stuffs, &c. For I have observed, that they have made the following Experiments abroad, without any good Success.

" IN. 1731. The French got Rams from England and Ireland, and put them to their Ews, to try if they would mend the Breed; they took care to put them upon the best Herbage they have between Dunkirk and Graveling; this mended the Wool the first Year, but the next Year it grew worse, and the following Year, it was no better than their own Rams and Ews produce. The same Year I saw some Sheep landed at the Back of Dunkirk, in the Channel of Mardike, and was sent up the Country.

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IN 1732. I heard that the Prince Deloigne had got some of our English Rams, and German Ews, to try what they would do; I went up the Country to see how they produced their Wool, and found that the Wool went off from the Goodness, as the former did. This Prince lives at a Place call'd Belisle, about 20 Miles from Mentz in Flanders.

IN October, 1735. As I was passing from Bethune to Lisle, I call'd upon a Shepherd in a Field near Foorn, a little Villiage; I prevail'd upon the Shepherd to drink a Glass of Wine with me, and had a great deal of Talk with him, about the Wool of those Parts; who told me That they had tried English Rams, but after the first Year, the Woo was worse than their own Rams and Ews produced; and assured me that the only way they had to preserve their Wool in its own natural Goodness, was to house their Sheep in the Night-time in the Winte Season: One Thing I cannot omit to observe, and that is, the Shepherds always keep with their Sheep Night and Day, and have a Hou that goes upon two Wheels, and is drawn from Place to Place; as the Sheep are moved from one Place to another to feed, and the Shee follow him and his Dog; the Dog is of no other Use, than to preser the Sheep from any Wolves, Foxes, or any other Beast that come to annoy the Sheep.

THE reason that the Wool of France, Flanders and Holland is generally short, sower, brushy, and commonly is full of Stichel Hairs which, in my Opinion, is wholly owing to the Herbage they feed on this will appear very plain, if we do but cast our Eyes about us a Home; for the Food or Herbage differs so much in England, that a

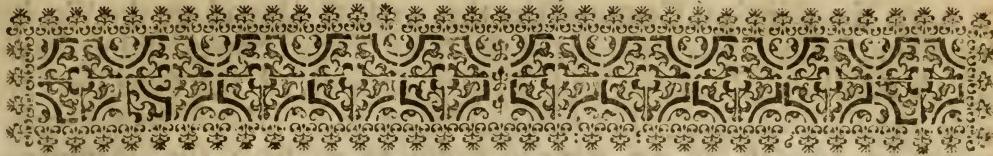
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this very time there is some Fleece Wool in the North Parts of England, is sold for no more than Three-pence Half-penny per Pound; and yet the Fleece Wool that grows between Heretord, Ross and the Old Gore, &c. in Herefordshire, was sold at Ross and Hereford Fair for Twenty-pence per Pound; the Wool near the South Downs in Sussex, was worth near as much.



Observations



Observations on WOOL, AND THE Woollen MANUFACTURE.



HE Riches of any Kingdom or Nation, is in the Multiplicity of People, if they have a Produce of the Growth of their own Country to employ them, and the Advantage of the Sea to carry on a Trade to other Countries: On the contrary, where any Country, tho' it is well stock'd with People, and doth not lie contiguous to the Sea, and hath not Materials of their own Growth and Produce to employ all their Hands, their People must go into Foreign Service to seek their Bread, as is the Case of the *Swiss*, and several other Nations in *Europe*: But Providence hath provided better for *England*; we are environed with the Sea and have several sorts of Materials that are the Produce of our own Land to employ our People with, and when they are wrought up into the divers sorts of Manufactures, we have also plenty of Shipping to carry them into Foreign Countries; and in return we bring back such Materials as are useful to us in Building and Rigging our Shipping; and in many other Branches of Business that we want, and have not of our own Produce.

AND the principal Commodities that we send Abroad are the Woolen Manufactures that are made of the Wool of the Growth of *England*, which could afford Labour and Employment to all our Poor, or at least the Quantity grow'd in *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*, wou'd certainly be enough, if we were so happy as to have the Manufacturing of it all ourselves. But we have the Misfortune to have among ourselves, some so base as to contrive all manner of Ways and Means to Owl this so abroad (for so they very properly call Running of the Wool into other Countries, it being done by Stealth and in the dark, like Owls, who durst not look the Sun in the Face,) and that to those that are utter Enemies, by their own Constitution, to our Interest and Happiness: I am sure there is nothing so loudly calls for the Help and Assistance of every true *Briton*, that hath a Value for his Native Country, and the Trades and Manufactures thereof, than lending a Helping-hand at this Time, to put a Stop to that vile and detestable Practice, of Owling of Wool abroad from *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*. For it is notorious, that the Woollen Manufactures are daily increasing abroad, and that by the Help of the Wool of *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*. This, I think, should excite every true *Briton* to strive to prevent this grand Evil, what the Consequence attending this Practice will bring upon *England*, if not timely prevented, I will endeavour to demonstrate: But first it is necessary that I should set forth, what an Advantage we have by our Wool and Woollen Manufactures, above any Nation in *Europe*, and how and why the Owling of our Wool is so dangerous and fatal a Nuisance to this Nation; or else it will not appear that such a Practice doth us any Harm at all. Woollen Manufactures, are such a sort of Commodities, that there is not any Nation in *Europe* but must have them; Inhabitants of the coldest Climates must of Necessity have them; and they of the warmest Regions, cannot do without them for Cloathing. And there is no Manufactures are so fit for Cloathing in general, as those made of Wool, and no Wool in *Europe* is equal to ours in Goodness, both for Combing, and Cloathing Wool also. But here I wou'd now particularly take Notice of our *Long Combing Wool*, being that sort of Wool that our Rivals covet most; I know

know that it is generally believed, that the making of *Cloth* abroad of our Wool, is that which destroys our Woollen Trade: But I shall prove that to be a Mistake, when I come to shew what sorts of Goods are made at each Town abroad. But first, I shall shew the Difference that there is between the Wool of *France*, *Flanders*, *Zeland* and *Holland*, and that of *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*. The Wool of *France*, *Flanders* and *Holland*, is for the most part very coarse and short in general, not above 3 or 4 Inches long, and of a harsh sower Nature; and great Part of it hath a Stichel Hair in it, like some of our Wool that is of the Growth of some Parts of *Norfolk*, *Suffolk*, *Cambridge-shire*, and in some Parts of the North of *England*. In these Countries the Wool is infected with the sort of Stichel Hair which is of a bright shining Colour, not like the other Wool that grows along with it on the same Sheep it being more like Dogs Hair; this Hair will twist in along with the other Hairs, when it is Spun, but continues to stare out, make it into what Goods they will: Neither will it Dye into any proper Colour, but still will continue of a whitish Colour. The *Dutch* are very curious Sorters of Wool, as I have observed when I was Abroad in *Holland*: I was told by an *Englishman* that work'd with a Felt-Monger in *Holland*, that they are so curious about the Wool, that hath this Stichel Hair in it, that they have Boys and Girls to pick the Wool off from the Skins, and leave those Stichel Hairs standing on the Skin. There is a little long Wool that is growed in *North Holland* and *Zeland*, and about *Ghent* and *Lovaine* in *Flanders*, but this is not fine, like the Wool of *England* and *Ireland*; the *French* Wool is pretty much like the *Flemish* and *Holland* Wool; but the Combing Wool of *England* and *Ireland*, is fine and long, free from this Stichel Hair, and the natural Strength of it makes it Valuable as well as the Softness and Fineness of it; and the Manufactories of Stuffs and Stockings made thereof, are preferable for Goodness and Beauty, to any Goods that they can make of their own Wool, either in *France*, *Flanders* or *Holland*: Even as much as our Stuffs of the finest quality, that are made of the best and finest Wool, surpass the Goods that are made of our coarsest Wool. The Wool of the Countries

ties of *Warwickshire*, *Northampton*, *Lincolnshire* and *Rutland*, with some Parts of *Huntingdon*, *Bedford*, *Buckingham* and *Cambridgeshire*, and *Rumney Marsh*, with some Parts of *Norfolk*, have been accounted the longest and finest Combing Wool. But of late Years there hath been Improvements made in the Breed of the Sheep, by changing the Rams, and Sowing of Turneps, Grass Seed, &c. and now there is some large fine Combing Wool, to be found in most Countries in *England*, which is fine, long and soft, fit to make all sorts of fine Stuffs and Hose of: And notwithstanding this sort of Wool is so long, and grows on large Sheep, yet there is upon some of those Sheep a small Quantity of short fine Wool, fit for the making of Cloth; and that sort the Foreigners mix with some sort of the *Spanish* Wool, to help to strengthen the Chain or Warp that they make into Cloth.

THE Combing Wool of *Ireland*, grows mostly in the Counties of *Tipperary*, *Limerick*, *Kilkenny*, *Kerry*, *Waterford*, *Connaught* and *Cork*; and is no way inferior to the long Wool of *England*, except a small Quantity of Wool that grows in some Parts of *Leicester*, and the *South Marshes* of *Lincolnshire*, which is longer than any Wool grow'd in any Part of *England* besides, and is of a beautiful shining Colour, and altho' long, yet very fine and soft, and is chiefly used in making of the best sorts of *Norwich Crapes*, *Bombazines*, &c. which, when wrought into these sort of Goods, is not only very fine, but bears an exceeding good Gloss, superior to any of the Wool of *Ireland*: But for the rest of the Wool that is used in Combing in *England*, it is so near the Length, Strength and Fineness, that when compared with *Irish* long Wool, there is no one, when he sees it abroad, can tell whether it be *English* *Irish* Wool.

HAVING given an Account of the Nature and Places of the Growth of our long Combing Wool, and the Difference there is between the Wool of *France* and the *Low Countries*, and that sort of Wool just now named. I shall now proceed according to my Promise, to shew what sorts of Goods are made of Combing Wool; and what sorts are made with Combing Wool and Carding Wool mixt together; and what is mixt with Silk, Cotton and Linnen, &c.

The first, viz. is COMBING WOOL:

Says	Durants	Cantiloons
Borfleys	Ranters	Worsted Plush
Shalloons	Bunting	Quarter Diamond
Spanish Crapes	Boultung Cloths	Birds Eye and Diamond
Buring Crapes	Swathing Bands	Grogram
Tamys	Serge Denim	Paragon
Purnellows	Camblets	Cadis
Sattannets	Camblettees	Gartering
Harrateens	Calimancoe plain	Quality Binding
Cheneys	Calimancoe flower'd	Stockings
Serges	Damasks	Caps
Sagathies	Russets	Gloves
Duroys	Everlasting	Breeches Knit

With many other sorts of Plain and Figur'd Stuffs.

The following Goods are made of Combing Wool and Carding Wool mix'd together; the Combing is the Warp or Webb; the Carding is the Woof or Shoot, viz.

Bays	Long Ells	Swan Skin
Broad Rash	Druggets plain	Quinco Bays or Wading
Cloth Serge	Druggets corded	Perpetanues
German Serge	Flannel	

The following Goods are made with Long Wool, and Silk Mohair and Cotton mix'd, viz.

Norwich Crapes	Stockings	Alapeens
Silk Druggets	Spanish Poplins	Anterines
Hair Plush	Caps and Gloves	Silk Sattenet ^s
Hair Camblet	Venetian Poplins	Bombasines

And divers sorts of different Stuffs, both figur'd, clouded, spotted, plain and strip'd, too tedious to name: But what I have set down are sufficient to prove the Valuableness of the *Combing Wool*.

HAVING shewn what a great Number of different sorts of Stuffs are made of Combing Wool; I wou'd just observe, that the Foreigners cannot make any of those sorts of Goods, as above, with their own Wool, fit for a Foreign Market, but when mix'd with the Wool of *Great Britain or Ireland*, then they are enabled to do it, as I shall shew in its proper Place: And that is the Reason the Foreigners covet that sort of Wool, before the *Clothing* or *Short Wool*; which makes the Loss to us the greater; when they have our deep Combing Wool. Since then Providence hath furnish'd us with such an inestimable Advantage by Virtue of our Wool, above every Nation in Europe, it necessarily follows, that our Woollen Goods must be the most Valueable, and the most in Vogue of all others, and consequently, that few Foreign Markets can, or will be without our Stuffs, Stockings, &c. and therefore must be supply'd by our Merchants, if we were so kind to ourselves, to keep our Wool at Home, and consequently those Markets will be engross'd by us; which, as it will cause a constant Demand for our Woollen Manufactures, so this Demand will provide a continual Employment for our Poor. And this constant Employment of our Manufactories will also improve our Workmen, in all the Branches of the Manufacturing Part, which Improvement in all our Arts, will secure the Demand from beyond Sea, and keep up our Reputation Abroad, which will cause the constant Circulation of Money throughout the Nation, and render our Manufacturers as perfect as possibly can be.

ON the contrary, by the Owling of Wool into Foreign Countries, we enable their own Manufactories to make much better and finer Stuffs, Stockings, &c. than their own is capable of making, when wrought by itself, whereby we do the Woollen Manufactories of this Nation the following Damages:

First, By this Means we lessen the Demand for our Woollen Goods in those Countries where they are now made, which formerly were served by us, and must again, if we can be so good to ourselves as to keep our Wool at Home.

Secondly,

Secondly, We not only lose the serving of them, but by giving them our Wool, we put those Manufacturers into a Condition to furnish the very Markets we send our Woollen Goods to, which go off as well, or better than ours, by their being able to undersell us, and consequently hinders the Sale of ours.

Thirdly, If we continue to Smuggle our Wool Abroad, other Countries will, and must naturally by degrees, ruin our Woollen Trade for the Exportation.

Fourthly, Our Exportation for Woollen Goods thus once lost, what will become of our Handicrafts, and the Surplus of our own Manufactures; for we, amongst ourselves, do not consume above one Third of our Woollen Goods, so that the Masters will turn off their Hands, which must come to the Parish for Maintenance, and the Growers of Wool must sell so much of the Wool that is wanted for Home Consumption for what they can get; and the rest, the Smuggling Grower and Farmer must force a Trade, and sell it to the *French*, *Flemings*, *Flanders*, &c. and if this shou'd be the Case, the Foreigners will give just what they think fit for it. This is the natural Case of all sorts of Goods that are a Drug, or where Persons are under a Necessity to sell their Goods, there being more Sellers than Buyers; and therefore this must be the Case of our Smuggling Graziers and Farmers; and whether this will not make them all Beggers at last, I leave my Countrymen to judge. For tho' the *French*, &c. give a greater Price for our Wool now than we do, is because they cannot do without it to mix with their own, to make their Manufactures fit for a Foreign Market: But when they come to have the Wool forced upon them, they will then slight it, and have it at what Price they please, or the Owling Farmer and Graziers must let it lie and rot which in a short Time will cause the Breeding of Sheep not worth while; the Landlord therefore must abate of the Rent, or take his Lands into his own Hands.

Now to demonstrate that this is very likely to be the Case, will appear from the following Facts:

FIRST then, it is not above 70 Years ago, since *Lewis* the XIVth, King of *France*, first encourag'd the making of Cloth in his Country or Kingdom.

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THE first Place he began at, was *Languedoc*, where they made Cloth of about 9s. or 10s. a *French Ell*; since that Time, they have made Cloths from 10s. to 14s. an Ell a *French Ell* is a small matter longer than an *English Ell*; the King raised a Fund to carry on this so Valueable a Branch of Trade with Vigour: This sort of Cloth is about 7 Quarters Wide, like our *Gloucestershire Cloths*; since that Time they have set up several more Manufactories, in which they make divers sorts of Stuffs, Stockings, &c. which I shall give a particular Account of, when I come to shew in what Towns in *France*, *Flanders* and *Holland*, the several different sorts of Stuffs, &c. are Manufactured.

BUT before the *French King* begun those Fabricks in his Dominions, nay and many Years after, we sent large Quantities of Woollen Goods to *France*; but since the Clandestine Exportation of our Wool hath been carry'd on so vigourously to that Country, the *French King* hath prohibited all sorts of our Woollen Manufactures being imported into the *French Dominions*; nay, that is not all the Harm they do us, for their Factories are so much increased within 10 or 12 Years last past, that the *French* send vast Quantities of Stuffs, Stockings, &c. to *Spain*, *Portugal*, *Italy*, &c. and undersell us 10 or 12 per Cent. their Labour being so much cheaper than ours in *England*, (as I shall shew in its proper Place,) which is the Reason they undersell us at the Foreign Markets: But this wou'd do us no Harm, if we could be so wise and good to ourselves, to keep our Wool at Home, and Manufacture it all ourselves.

Secondly, And at this very Time, by Owling of our Wool to *Hambrough*, *Holland*, *Flanders*, *France*, &c. those Countries are able to manufacture divers sorts of Stuffs and Stockings which are sold amongst the *Hollanders*, *Fleemings*, &c. which makes our Manufactures a Drug in those Parts, the *Dutch* and *Fleemings* buying only such sorts of Woollen Goods of our Merchants, that they have occasion for, to make up proper Assortments of Goods fit to be shew'd at the Markets Abroad; the Foreigners not as yet making all the Sorts or Assortments of Goods so neat as we do. But if they continue to have our Wool, there will not be any sorts of Woollen Goods made in *England*,

England, but what in a few Years the Foreigners will be able to make as well as we do. It is but a few Years ago since the *Hollanders* came to be supply'd with Woollen Goods from some Parts of the *German* Dominions, which are made with our Wool, and are made near as good as our Stuffs, &c. except our *Superfine Stuffs, Stockings, &c.* and much cheaper than we can sell ours, occasion'd also by the Cheapness of their Labour.

Thirdly, The *French*, within this 60 odd Years, have drove our Woollen Manufactories quite out of their large Dominions, and not only so, but are become Sharers with us in our Commerce in *Spain, Portugal* and *Italy*, and several other Places; and undersell us in most, if not all Places where-ever they come with their Woollen Goods, and have almost beat us out of several Branches of our Woollen Fabricks. This being the Case, what are we to expect from them, if they continue to get our Wool for 60 or 70 Years longer: Also in the short Space of a few Years, the Woollen Manufactories of the *Low Countries*, and some Parts of *Germany*, &c. are so Improv'd and Increas'd, by the Help of our Wool, that *Holland* is chiefly served from them with those sorts of Goods which they mix with a few they buy from *England*, and then call them *all English Goods*; because *English* Woollen Manufactures have had the Vogue and Name for many Years past, all over *Europe*. This is the Reason that our Woollen Goods go off so slowly in *Holland*. If this is become the Case, in a few Years past, what will be the Consequence in Twenty Years more? Will not other Places as well as the Provinces of *Holland*, be supply'd from *Germany*, &c. with Woollen Manufactures, who at present continue to take off our Woollen Fabricks?

I CANNOT but think that I have fully made it appear, what Advantage we have, above all Nations in the known World, by our Wool and our Woollen Manufactory; and how and why the Owling of Wool becomes so dangerous and so fatal a Nuisance to *England*: It hath also been prov'd, that our Woollen Manufacturing Trade hath vastly suffered by the *French*, within these 60 or 70 Years, and daily declines by the Increase of their Commerce.

AND if the Wool is still continued to be Owled Abroad, and sent them, in less than 60 Years more our Woollen Manufacturing Trade for Export, will be intirely destroy'd and lost.

THE Loss of our Woollen Manufactory for Export being taken for granted, if the Owling of Wool be not effectually prevented: I shall now endeavour to shew the fatal Consequence that must unavoidably follow the Loss and Ruin of this so valuable and most beneficial Branch of our Commerce and Trade; which, if we cou'd keep our Wool at Home, wou'd be more Advantage to this Nation, than the Gold Mines of Mexico and Peru are to the King of Spain.

First, Our Woollen Trade being once lost and ruin'd, our Wool will become a Drug, and the Legislature will be obliged to *allow the Exportation of our Wool to help Trade*, if possible, as formerly it was our Case: And then our best Manufactures will in course follow the Wool to Foreign Parts to get their Bread, as is the Case at this Time; for there are near Thirty of our best Artificers lately gone to Denmark. I have procured the Names of the principal Foremen, that are gone over to Copenhagen to set up the several different Sorts of Manufactories, which are as follows, *viz.* John Surman, Arts Master of Bride-well; Mr. Doncar, Broad Weaver, of Brick-lane, Spittal-fields; Mr. Paratt, Garter-Weaver, of Bridgewater Square; Daniel Rogers, of Angel Ally, in Bishoptsgate-street, Stuff Weaver; Nathaniel Swanson, Damask and Russel Weaver, of Castle-street, in the Parish of Stepney; John Tate, Stocking-Frame-Knitter, of Long Ally, near Moorfields; these Foremen have about Five Under-hands each. These People have carried Looms and Stocking-Frames along with them, with all other sorts of Utensils to carry on the several different Branches of the Woollen Manufactories. A short time ago, the Person that inveighed those People away from their Native Country, sent for more Looms, &c. to one Mr. F—, that lives in Angel Ally, in Bishoptsgate-street.

THE King of Denmark, of late Years gives great Encouragement to our Artificers; and the first Place that the Woollen Manufactory begun at in Denmark, was at Altena, near Hambrough (Altena belongs to the King of Denmark) by one Mr. John Hudson, who went from

Torkshire,

Yorkshire, and there began to make Cloth, about Six Years ago; and now there is at that Place, above One Hundred Looms; and those that are gone over lately, are to set up the making of *Stuff's* and *Stockings*, and *Narrow Goods*; as *Gartering*, *Cadis* and *Quality-bindings*, and have carried their Engines and other Utensils along with them; and some Stocking-Frames also are gone over, and one Stocking-Frame; Maker, and several Broad Looms to make *Calimancoes*, *Camblets* and divers other *Stuff's*.

Thus by Encouraging, and constantly giving full Employment to our Workmen Abroad, the Foreigners will come to the greatest Perfection in the Woollen Manufactures; on the contrary, ours at Home; for want of good Hands and constant Employment, will daily decline in their Goodness: And the *French* and others, by their low Wages, and hard Living, will be able to sell their Woollen Goods cheaper than we shall make them in *England*.

By this it seems a natural Consequence, that by reason of the Goodness and Cheapnes of the *French*, *Flemings*, &c. Goods, they may again be Imported into *England*, as formerly they were, whereby we shall be reduced to our former State, when we sent our Wool to the *Flemings* and the *French*, and took Cloth and *Stuff's*, &c. in Return from them. This being the Case, many Thousand Manufacturers will want Employment; for as all Ranks and Orders of Persons, because of the Scarcenes of Money, and the Charge of the Poor being very great, as most certain it will be, they must in course buy Yearly fewer Cloaths for themselves and Families; so the Clothiers and Master Weavers, of all the different Branches of Business, for want of a Demand for their Goods, will turn off many Thousands of their Combers, Spinners, Weavers, Carders, Throwsters, Doublers, Dyers, &c. which Manufacturers being turn'd out of Employment, will increase the Number of chargeable Poor; and consequently, the vast Sums of Money which were Yearly paid to them for Wages, will no longer be distributed, nor will circulate in the several Counties of *England*: Whereby all sorts of Trades and Handicrafts, &c. as Farmers, Graziers, Butchers, Bakers, Toallw Chandlers, Grocers, Woollen Drapers, Linnen Drapers, Ha-

berdashers, Tanners, Curriers, Feltmongers, Shoemakers, Glovers, Maltsters, Brewers, Cornfactors, Alehouse-keepers, Inn-keepers, Carriers, Taylors, Hosiers, and divers other Employments, with whom the Artificers and Handicraftsmen did daily deal with for Food and Raiment, will dwindle and come to nothing. Besides those Trades and Callings that I have named, there are great Numbers of different sorts of Callings and Trades that do immediatly depend one upon another, to fit and prepare the many different sorts of Goods that are made with Sheeps Wool, fit for a Foreign Market; that is, from the Sheeps Back, to the Ship that carries those Goods Abroad to the Foreign Markets. And here I shall set down the many different Branches of Business, Trades, &c. that do occur to my Memory: I shall begin them, as they appear to me, in an Alphabetical Order.

A LIST of the different Branches of Business that depends upon Wool and the Woollen Manufactory, Alphabetically digested, viz.

Bobbin-winder	Damask of Kiterminster, &c.	Hat-maker
Burlers of Cloth	Enterer of Chaines, &c.	Hat-dyer
Bay-maker	Farmer or Turnep grower for Sheep	Handle - maker with Teasells
Brand-clippers	Fuller, or Tucker	Hatband and Loop-maker
Calender	Feltmonger	Engine Weaver
Cloth-shearer	Finisher of Hats	Imbosser of Cloth, &c.
Camblet-maker	Farmer to raise Woolds	Knitters of Stockings, &c.
Crape-maker	Factor of Yarn, &c.	Landlord, or Setter of Land
Cullgeer	Farmer to raise Feasells	Merchants
Con-drawer	Farmer to Breed Sheep	Master Wool-Comber
Clothier	Garter-maker by Hand	Mill'd Caps, and Hose-maker
Carder and Spinner	Grazier	Master Ships
Doubler	Garter - maker by Engine	Mop-
Dyer		
Duroy and Sagathy-maker		
Dussell-maker		

Mop-maker	Scribbler	Weaver of Broad Cloth
Marriners, or Sailors	Seizer of Chains	Weaver of Calimancoes,
Mounter of Draught Looms	Seamer of Hose	Ec.
Mixer of Wool	Say-maker	Weaver of Wadding
Pickers of Wool	Shallooon-maker	Weaver of Ruggs
Pickers of Peices of Calimancoe, Ec.	Serge-maker mixt, Ec.	Weaver of Coverlids
Presser	Shroud-maker	Weaver of Crape
Packers	Sigg or Piſſ Gatherer for Dyers	Weaver of Draught Damask, Ec.
Pattern Reader for Draught Work	Master Throwsters	Woollen Draper
Quill-winder	Tender of Throwster- Mill	Wool Stapler
Quilter of Petticoats, Ec.	Turner of Throwster- Mill	Wool Jobbers
Ranter Maker	Tainterer, or Setter	Weaver of Lincies
Rowers of Cloth	Tamey-Maker	strip'd, Ec.
Shepherd	Turnep-hougher, to feed Sheep	Waste, or Thrumb Dealers
Sheep - washer, and Shearer	Tapestry-Maker	Waterer of Cheyneys, Ec.
Sorter of Wool	Undertakers of Burials	Weaver of Carpets
Spinner of Worsted, or Gersey	Weaver of Plush	Yarn or Worsted- maker
Scowerer of Stuffs, Ta- mies, Ec.	Wool-winder	Yarn, or Worsted, Dealers
	Warper of Chains	Yarn Factors
	Weaver of Serge, Shal- loon, Ec.	

The above Trades and Occupations, are immediately concern'd in
the Manufacturing of Woollen Goods fit for a Foreign Market:

And

*And the following are more or less employ'd in the making Instruments,
Ec. for some one Branch or other of the Woollen Manufactures.*

Argel-maker	Calender-maker	Porters
Allom-maker	Coperas-makers	Plush Wire-maker
Archel-maker	Dry Salter	Potash-makers
Anchor Smiths	Fatt-maker	Paper-maker
Blackwell-hall Factors	Fullen Mill-maker	Pump-maker
Barge Men, Ec.	Founder for Press Plates	Parson for Tith Wool
Back-makers	Fullers Earth Diggers and Sellers of it	Pressing board Paper- maker
Black Smiths	Glue-makers	Packthread-maker
Bisket Bakers for Sea	Glazier	Plumber
Box or Case-maker	Husband for Ships	Ribbon-maker for Til- lets, Ec.
Brick-maker	Hurdlemaker for Sheep- folds	Real-maker
Bricklayer	Hat Block-maker	Reed-maker with Steel
Book-keeper	Indico-makers	Ragg Gatherer
Brewer for Sea Beer	Engine-Loom-makers	Sheer-maker
Broker	Knitting-needle-maker	Spindle-maker
Buckram-makers	Logwood Cutter, Ec.	Shuttle-maker
Brush-makers	Lighter Man	Screw and Nut-maker
Carrier	Logwood Grinder and dye Stuff, Ec.	Soap Boiler
Coopers Dry and Wet	Lime Burners	Stocking Leg-maker
Canvass-maker	Lime-makers	Ship Wright
Crangage into the Ship, Ec.	Loom-makers	Stocking Frame-maker
Charcoal-maker	Malster for Ship Beer	Scale and Beam-maker
Colliers	Mole-maker for Nar- row Weavers	Super Cargoes
Comb Pot or Killen- maker	Oilmakers of Rape, Ec.	Fruet-maker
Copper Smith for Dy- ers, Ec.	Pewter Kettle-maker,	Tillett-maker
Carpenters	for Scarlet Dyers	Turner of Bobbins, Ec.
Cock and Boss-maker	Pack Needle-maker	Warping Mill-maker
Card-maker		Watermen
		Wire Drawer

Wheel-makers for Spin-	Woade-makers for Dy-	Ware-makers for Dyers
ners	ers	Warehouse-men for
Wool Comb-makers	Warehouse-keepers	Cloth, &c.

THE Reason that I have named so many kinds of Weavers, is to shew some of the various sorts of Weaving, and the Difference there is between them; and altho' a Man may be brought up to one of those Branches of Weaving, yet he cannot turn his Hand to another, no more than a Carpenter can to the Business of a Joiner, or of any other Trade; I have named only those which differ most the one from the other.

BUT there is Six Times more different sorts of Stuffs, Stockings, Cloth, &c. made, then I have named Weavers, as you may see by the Lists of Stuffs, &c. that we do now make; the above Artificers and Handicrafts, &c. have an immediate Dependance one upon another, and are so closely united each to the other, that one cannot do without the other, in the carrying on the Manufacturing of Sheeps Wool.

AND here I beg leave to take Notice, that this valuable Creature, that bears or grows this Wool, hath several other peculiar Qualifications which belong to them, and are very useful to Mankind, as the Flesh, Hide, Guts, &c. on which I might enlarge and shew the Advantage it is to Man; but what I would more particularly take Notice of, is the Horn that grows upon the Head of this fine Creature, which is extraordinary Valuable, it being the only Horn in all the known World to help to make up to the greatest Perfection that useful Instrument call'd a Wool-Comb, which is used to dress or comb the Wool they bear on their Backs; this Instrument is oblig'd to be heated or warmed over a strong Charcoal Fire, and notwithstanding it being constantly used, neither Cracks nor Shrinks from the Wood it is fix'd to, but will last many Years: It hath been observed that a Pair of those Wool-Combs have lasted Ten Years, and some say more, when all other Horns will Shrink or Crack in a short Time: But as Providence hath given to the Sheep of these Islands, some Excellencies more than the

same Creatures has in other Nations, such as the Length, Fineness and Strength of their Wool, and peculiar Goodness of their Horns.

How ought we to prize and value the Blessing, and take care and preserve the whole and sole Manufacturing them for ourselves; but if we suffer these to be lost, and our Rivals to become Masters of them, all the above Trades, Handicrafts, Manufactures, Callings and Business, will and must suffer.

AND as those Handicrafts, &c. are most of them Tenants to Gentlemen who have Estates, be less able to pay their Landlords their Rents, for so many will be starving for want of Business, that those few who have Employment will be tax'd, to help Feed and Cloath those that want Employment; which will at last Saddle the Back of the Landlords: This demonstrates, that the Landlords must be the chief Sufferers at last, by the Decay of so valuable a Branch of Trade as the whole Woollen Manufactury; and therefore ought to be the First, to lay their Help to endeavour to stop this vile Practice of Owling of our Wool from *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*, before it be too late; as on the contrary, when this Branch of our Commerce flourisheth, all other Trades flourish also; whereby the Landlords have their Rents well and duly paid, and be great Gainers by the Rise of the Rents, and the Value of Lands.

Secondly, For by Trading to some Countries with our Woollen Manufactories, we bring Home in Exchange for them, several sorts of valuable Things, which we want for our own Use and Consumption, and gain a great Ballance thereby, which is paid to us in Ready Specie.

But by the Loss of Exporting our Woollen Goods, we shall be oblig'd to purchase those Commodities with Ready-Money; which is already our Case with *France*, for we pay the *French* all Ready-Money for their Wines, Brandy, Cambricks, Hollands, Threads, &c. to the Amount of 600,000*l.* a Year and upwards; and there is no doubt to be made, but the *Flemings* have Money paid on the Ballance Yearly for their Linnens, Lace, Tickings, Threads, Cambricks, &c. since that time as they have set up so many Looms to make Stuffs, Stockings, &c. by the Help of our Wool; as I shall plainly make appear when

when I come to shew the many Towns that they have within a few Years set up the Woollen Manufactories at.

Thirdly, If when our Woollen Manufacturing Trade is ruined, we should take from other Nations no more Commodities to be commerced with, or Materials to be wrought up into Manufactories for our Home Consumption and to re-export, than what we could purchase with our own unwrought Wool, or other Native Produce, and what we Import from our own Plantations; it is evident that our Duties of Imports must prove Deficient, and our Traffick decay. But if we should still Import as great a Quantity of Commodities or Materials, as when we commerced with our Woollen Manufactories at Foreign Markets, is is undeniable, that we must purchase with our Money so much, and so many, of those Commodities and Materials as we took before, when we barter'd for those Goods; therefore if we should Trade upon this Foot, with all the Nations in *Europe*; the Consequence will be, that we soon shall be Beggars, and that we must so Trade with other Countries, is very plain, because they would not take off from our Hands more of our re-exported Commodities and Materials, than they used to do: And therefore we could not, in the room of such Commodities, &c. purchase from them more Goods than at present; therefore we should carry on Yearly, a great Trade, but daily grow poorer and poorer, and we Trade pretty near upon this Footing with the *French* already; for the *French* will not take any sorts of Manufactories from us, but those Goods that they do vouchsafe to take from us, are such as are capable of being manufacitored, or such as they cannot conveniently be without; which are, Leaf Tobacco, Leather, Beef, Butter, and Raw Hides, the three last sorts of Goods, goes from *Ireland* mostly; and very often they have some Wool in the same Vessel that carries the Butter, Beef, and Raw Hides to *France*. I have myself seen Wool landed at *Dunkirk* out of one of thote Ships.

I HAVE shewn, in as plain a manner as I am capable; and, I think; made appear the Advantage we have above all Nations in *Europe* by our Wool, particularly our Deep Combing Wool; also have shew'd the Disadvantage it is to *Great-Britain* in general, to have our Wool

Owled abroad ; and how it would affect all Sorts and Degrees of Persons, from the King to the meanest Peasant.

I SHALL now proceed to give an Account, in as impartial a Manner as possible I am capable, in what Parts of *France*, *Flanders* and *Holland*, &c. the Woollen Manufactories are carried on, by the help of the Wool of *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*, shewing the different sorts of Goods that are now made at each Place, and what Priviledges are given to the Woollen Fabricks in those Countries.

ALSO what Prohibitions and Restrictions are laid upon the *British* Woollen Goods that are Exported abroad, in order to encourage their own, and drive, if possible, our Woollen Manufactories out of those Parts.

I SHALL begin with *Abbaville* in *Picardy*, in *France*, and so proceed into *Artois*, *French*, *Spanish* and *Brabants*, *Flanders*, *Liegeois*, *Zeland*, *Holland*, &c. and shall shew my Countrymen how the Manufactories at each Place are upheld and supported by the help of our Wool.

Abbaville is a large old Town in *Picardy*, in *France*, about 90 Miles from *Calis*, where *Lewis* the XIVth first encouraged the making of fine Broad Cloth ; this he did by advancing 40,000 Livers to one *Mynheer Van Robis*, a *Hollander* ; the King gave him also a fine House to live and drive his Trade in, and granted him a Patent for the whole and sole making of Superfine Broad Cloth in that Part of *France* ; and as *Mynheer Van Robis* was a *Protestant*, as a further Encouragement, the King granted him a Patent renewable every 20 Years for the free Use and Exercise of the *Protestant Religion*, for Himself and Family ; and all the People that did then, or should hereafter work in any Branch of the Woollen Fabricks in this Town of *Abbaville*, &c. also, that if any Woman that was a *Roman Catholick*, should have a mind to marry a *Protestant* that belonged to this Manufactory, she should be at her own disposing, and the Priest should in no ways molest her in her Marriage, as to Points of Religion, if she hath a mind to turn *Protestant*. And as a further Proof of the Sincerity and Affection that the King had to encourage this same Manufactory, he wore some of the first

first Cloth that was made himself, and ordered all the Court to do the same: All those Priviledges are kept up, and punctually observed to this Day, and the Factory is now carried on by Three Partners, that are Nephews to old *Van Robis*, who first begun the Factory, and are of the same Name as their Uncle ; they all keep their Coaches, &c and live in a very grand Manner at this Factory; there is nothing but superfine Broad Cloth made, and they use no Wool but *Spaniſh* in it. The Place the Factory is carried on in, is a large fine Place walled in, and lieth close by a Navigable River, which is not above 10 Miles from St. *Valory*, a small Sea Port Town in this Place : They carry on all the Branches of the Clothing Trade, except the *Fulling of the Cloth, and the Spinning of the Wool.* There are 108 Broad Looms, and about 600 Men, Women, and Children employ'd upon the Spot, in picking of Wool, Winding, Warping, Weaving, Shearing, Rowing, Dying, Burling, Scribbling, Fine-Drawing, Pressing, Packing, &c. Those 600 Persons are governed in good order: They all come to work, and leave work, at the Beating of a Drum: There is also two Porters, or Beadles at the Gate of the Entrance into the Place, where the Work-Shops are ; and if a Stranger comes to see the different Offices and Work-Shops, one of those Porters goes along with them, and shews them all the Apartments that belongs to this fine Manufactory, and dare not ask for Money, as the Custom is in *England*, amongst those Trades: And if any of the Workmen get drunk, or commit any Offence, he is suspended his Work by the Foreman of the Branch he belongs to, during the Pleasure of the Foreman, not exceeding a Month's time: For every Branch of Businels hath different Foremen, and they do act, in all respects, as the real Master and Owner of the Goods.

ONE *Cole*, that went from *London*, was the first Man that taught them to dye proper Colours to make Mixtures of Wool, as we do in *England*, to make into Cloth ; this Cloth hath met with such Encouragement, that it hath enriched the *Van Robis's* Family, that upon Publick Days they appear in their Coach and Six Horses, and Six Footmen behind the Coach, as Grand as any Peers in *France*; they have Entertain'd many of the Nobility and Gentlemen of *England* at

their Table, as they passed by, it being in the Road to *Paris*, from *Calis*; this being the greatest Fabrick of this kind in *Europe*, leads every curious Traveller that passeth through *Abbayville*, to call and see it: I have been the more large in the Relation of this Fabrick for two Reasons:

First, It being the greatest I ever saw in all my Travels, and is governed in so curious a Manner, notwithstanding the Largenes of it.

Secondly, To shew my Countrymen, that there is none but *Spaniſh* Wool used in this Fabrick, because I know that ſome Gentlemen who have been at this Fabrick, have asserted, That the Cloth made there, is mix'd with *Engliſh* or *Irish Wool*, and this hath paſt'd currant in *England* for a Fact: But as I have often been there, and converſed with the Foremen, I am convinced to the contrary; and I am of the Opinion, it is for want of *knowing the Difference* between *Spaniſh* and *Engliſh*, and *Irish Wool*, that ſome Persons have asserted, That there is Wool from *Great-Britain*, &c. used in making of those fine thin Cloths which are made in this House.

BUT tho' there is none of our *Wool* used in this Fabrick, there is too much used in the Town of *Abbayville*: For this Fabrick being crown'd with ſuch great Success, led other People to fall into the way of making other different ſorts of Woollen Goods. Some of *Van Robis's Men* fell to making ſeveral ſorts of Stuff's, as Paragons, Serge Royal, Druggets, Shalloons, Cloth Serge, &c. thofe Goods are chiefly made of *Engliſh* or *Irish Wool*. I believe there is above 1000 Looms going in this Town on Paragons, beſides a great many more are employed in the making of Druggets, Serge, Cloth Serge, &c. Thofe Goods are chiefly ſent to *Spain*, *Portugal* and *Italy*, and are ſold for *Engliſh Goods*. I have been told by a Manufacturer of this Town, that he hath known an *Engliſh Ship* lie in *St. Valery* Road, while they have ſent a Boat up to *Abbayville*, which is near 4 Leagues, to fetch down Bales of Woollen Manufac-to-ries, and have ſhipp'd them on board the *Engliſh Vessel*, and carried them to Foreign Markets, for *Engliſh Goods*; the Bales being mark'd and number'd, as if they was mark'd in *England*, are ſold amongst our *Engliſh*

English Goods: If I am not much mistaken, we are very much obliged to our *English Merchants*, to buy *French Goods* to carry to the foreign Markets, while our own Goods lie upon our Hands! But if I had the Favour to know one of those Gentlemen, and should ask them the Reason that they buy *French Goods*, and ship them with our Goods to be carried to Foreign Markets? I know that they will give for Answer, That they can buy Paragons, Druggets, &c. cheaper at *Abbeville*, than in *England*, which I know to be true. And the reason that Goods are to be bought cheaper in *France* than in *England*, is, because the *Labour* is above one Third *cheaper there*, than in *England*, where the same sorts of Goods are made; for there the poor People work hard, and fare hard, as to their Food and Cloathing. There is another pretty large Manufactory carry'd on in this Town by Four Partners, two *Dutch*, and two *Frenchmen*; the *Dutchmens Names* are *Schalone*, whose Father was *Van Robe's* first Foreman, when he set up this fine Fabrick, that I have gave some account of, which was set up in *Lewis* the XIVth's Time; the old Gentleman was alive in 1732, when I had a great deal of Discourse with him: And I remember one Day, as I was talking with him, the *Paris Gazette* was brought in, and read to the old Man, and there was a Paragraph in it, That the Manufacturers of *Great Britain* had apply'd to Parliament, to get an A&t to stop the *Running of Wool* to *France*, &c. Upon the old Man's hearing of that read, said, That he had remember'd that there had been Petitions of that Kind, for more than Fifty Years; and said, Let them Petition, and make what Laws they will in *England*, if we can find *French Gold*, I am sure we shall have *English* and *Irish* Wool enough.

AND it is my Opinion, that those Merchants that buy those Goods at *Abbeville*, and send them to the Foreign Markets with our *Woollen Goods*, would not stop at sending them our *Wool*, if it lay in their Power, if they do not do it at this Time; however, that I must leave to themselves. This Fabrick of the *Schalonees* is carried on with good Success; the sorts of Goods that they make, are *Serge Royals*, Druggets, and some new Shalloons and Cloth Serge; these Goods are made mostly.

mostly with *Irish* and *English Wool*: They have several Work-Shops in the Town; they carried me to one of the Comb-Shops, where there were 7 or 8 Men at work upon all *English* or *Irish Wool*, I comb'd a Combsful of it myself: They also shew'd me their Stock of *Wool, Tarn, Worsted*, and Goods wrought up, which was very large; I believe there was at least Ten Thousand Pound Stock, wrought and unwrought; I brought several of their Patterns away with me, some Serge and some Druggets; the Serge is the finest I ever saw: I shew'd them to some of the best Judges of Serge in *England*, who declared that they had never seen any like them, for Fineness and for Beauty, made in *England*. I told you before, that *Van Robis* had a Patent for the sole making of *Superfine Broad Cloth*, with other Advantages besides; one of which was, *That no Person in that Place shall use, or occupy any Fulling-Mill, that goeth either by Wind or Water*. So that when this Factory was set up by the *Schalonees*, they were obliged to have a Mill to go with Horses, which they call a *Gigg-Mill*, and is one of the best Contrivances that ever I saw for that Purpose, for it fulls the Goods to Perfection.

WHEN I was at *Abbayville* last, which was a little above six Months ago, I found that these Four Partners had advanced their Trade; and Mr. *Daniel Shalone* told me, That they had Goods then in *Italy* and *Mes-sina*, but was obliged to take off the Town Mark before they sent them abroad, and so ship them on board some *English Vessel*; this he said they did, because there was a large Duty on *French Woollen Goods* in those Parts; but that they had applied to the Cardinal *De Fleury* to get that taken off, which he promised that he would, and in a short Time procure them the Liberty of sending the *French Woollen Goods* to *Italy*, &c. Duty-free; for that there is now a large Duty on the *French Woollen Manufactory*, even almost to a *Prohibition*; and that they could not send any Goods thither, but under the Notion of *Eng-lish Manufactories*: But the *English* being kind Neighbours, do the *French* that Piece of Service, to carry their *Goods* for them to other Markets, where the *French* cannot go themselves: These are True Britons to be sure, and have a great *Value* for their *Native Country*!

AT the same time, I was at another Merchant's House, where they were all hands at Work, in packing Woollen Manufactories to be ship'd on board an *English* Ship that they expected every Day to come into St. *Valery* Road; this the Master told me, and I saw the Goods they were a packing: There were a great many Bales, and were mark'd with *English* Marks and Numbers. I also saw some *Irish* Worsted at Mr. *Schalone's*, that they had got to make Shalloons with; I brought two Skeins of it away along with me. The Price of *English* and *Irish* Combing Wool, was about Ten Pence *English* Money, a Pound; and some that was deep and a long fine Staple, was Ten Pence Halfpenny per Pound. Of late Years they have got the Way of making good Hose at this Town in Frames, which they chiefly consume amongst themselves: I do not doubt but in a short Time, this Branch of the Manufactory will find the Way to Foreign Markets, along with the other Goods, if they continue to have our *Wool*: As to the Method they have in mixing and managing of *our Wool* with *their own Wool*, is as follows: In the finest Serge Druggets, &c. they put *none of their own Country Wool*; but in the second sort of Goods, they mix *one Third of theirs*, with *two Thirds of ours*; and so in Proportion, as they wou'd have their Goods coarser, or finer; for in some Goods they mix *two thirds of their own*, with *a third of our Wool*; for with their *own Wool alone*, they can only make coarse Cloth, Cloth Serge, Hatts, Hose, &c. for the poor People of their own Country.

I W A S told by a Manufacturer of this Town, that he had received Advice, That there was forty or fifty Thousand Weight of *my Country Wool* landed at *Nants*, and that he was to have Part of it. And as near as I could learn, there are about 300 *Wool-Combers* in this Town, and a great deal of the *Wool* combed here, is sent to *Amiens*, to be spun into small Yarn or Worsted; it being the best Place in this Country for fine good Spinning,

Amiens is in *Picardy*, and is a large City, about 10 Leagues from *Abbeville*; at this Place is made a great many sorts of Silk and Worsted Stuffs, in Imitation of *Norwich Crapes*, Bombazines, Spanish Poplins; and several sorts of flower'd, spotted, stript and plain Stuffs, mix'd with.

with Silk and Worsted, &c. which are the principal sorts of Goods that are made in this City ; those Goods are generally mix'd with *our Wool*, and *their own Wool* together : But the finest sort is made of all either *English* or *Irish Wool*, mix'd with Silk, Mohair, &c. They also comb *our Wool* alone in this City, and have it spun into Worsted Yarn, &c. and send it to *Tournay*, *Brussels*, and other Places, with which is made the finest of Tapestries and Silk Stuffs. They have in this Town some Thousands of Lambs employ'd in making the several sorts of Silk and Worsted Stuffs ; and when dress'd and finish'd, they are all sent over to *France*, *Flanders* and *Holland* ; and some of them are sent to *Spain*, *Portugal*, &c. As to Labour, it is above one Third cheaper in this Town, than it is in *Norwich*, *London*, &c. where the same Sortment of Goods is made ; they make their Goods full Breadths, let them be Half-Yard, Half-Ell, Three Quarters, or Yard-wide : And also make them thicker than we do in *England*, which makes them in greater Esteem in the *Low Countries*, &c. than the *English* Goods ; which makes this Manufactory daily increase.

At *Mondidire* in *Picardy*, about 8 Leagues from *Amiens*, within these *Two Years*, there is a Factory set up by Monsieur *Chavilien*, the Intendant of *Picardy*. In this Factory they make Shalloons and Cloth Serge : This being a new Fabrick, I shall not enlarge upon it ; only observe, that as the Trade of the *Woollen Manufactory* increaseth at one Place, they extend it to another, by giving Encouragement to *those* that will *engage* in it. I know an *Englishman* that was offered 40,000 Livres, as a Stock to carry on the Trade at this Place, by the Person that had the Management of those Affairs, besides all the Priviledges that the *Woollen Manufacturers* enjoy at *Abaville*. By this you may see, how zealous the *French* are to promote and support the carrying on these new *Woollen Fabricks* in their own Country, when at the same time they cannot carry on those old ones, if they were not furnished with *Irish* and *English Wool* : For the *Wool* of this Part of *France*, is fit only to make coarſe Cloth, Cloth Serge, Druggets, Hose, Hatts, &c. which will serve for the poor Peasants : But now they have *our Wool*, they make Goods fit for a Prince's Palace. *Abbaville*, *Amiens* and *Mondidire*

Mondidire, being the principal Towns in *France*, where the *Woollen Manufactory* for Stuffs, Stockings, &c. are carried on.

I WILL now proceed in my Journey through *Flanders*, &c. I shall begin at *St. Omer*. *St. Omer* is a large Town, Twenty Miles from *Dunkirk*, and about the same Distance from *Calis*, and is in the Province of *Artois*. At this Place there is a Manufactory of Cloth, Druggets, Duroys, Sagathies, Shalloons and Stockings; the Cloth Factory is carried on by the Town Stock, and is increas'd within 7 Years, double to what it was before. The Master of this Factory's Name is Mr. *Robiare*, who lately bought a large Parcel of *Irish Wool* of one Mr. *Obrien*, an *Irishman* that was landed at *Dunkirk*; one of his Weavers, an *Irishman*, whose Name is *Richard Dally*, gave me an account of the same. There are in this Town 350 Looms employ'd in the making several sorts of these Goods, besides a great many Stocking-Frames; they make their Hose very good, some are made of all *our Wool*, and some are mix'd with about half *their own Wool* and half *our Wool*; they sell those by the Name of *English Hose*. In the Year 1735, I was at *Newport* in *Flanders*, and an *English Gentleman* wanting a Pair of Hose, got me to go along with him to a Shop to buy them; and when we came into the Shop, they perceiv'd that we were *Englishmen*; and to shew'd us some *English Hose*, as they call'd them. I knowing by the Make of them, that they were not made in *England*, caused me to ask, Where those Hose were made? To which the Shop-keeper reply'd, That they were made at *St. Omer*, and that he would assure me, that they were made of all *English Wool*; they were good Hose, but were made heavier than we generally make them in *England*: But the Clocks not quite so curious, as some of ours are.

At *St. Omer*; in the making of their Duroys, Sagathies, Druggets and Serges, they mix about one Third of *our Wool*, and two Thirds of *their own Wool*, and make their Goods much stronger and heavier, than we do our Goods of the same kind in *England*; which makes them much esteem'd in that Country.

IN making their Broad Cloth, they make them fine, middling and coarse, the fine Cloth is made all of *Spanish Wool*; the second is about

half *English* and half their own *Country Wool*; and the coarse is made of all their own *Wool*; which last sort is wore by the Poor or the Neighbourhood. Provision is very cheap at this Town, and Labour cheap in Proportion. Wages is much the same Price here, as at *Abbeville*, if any thing, it is a little cheaper in the Spinning: They take the same Methods to keep Labour low, &c. as they do at *Lisle*. I was in the Factory which is carried on by the Town Stock: It is in a large House, built for that Purpose; there I saw *Richard Dally*, an *Irishman*, a weaving of Broad Cloth, and had a Boy that was Apprentice to him, that work'd with him in the same Loom: This the Magistrates do allow to the Journeymen, to encourage and promote the Encrease of the Manufacturers.

THE next Places to St. Omer, where the *Woollen Manufactory* is carried on, is at St. Paul and *Fruge*, which are about 20 Miles from St. Omer, in the Province of *Artois*: Those two Towns lie near one another, and are about 7 or 8 Miles on the right Hand as we pass from St. Omer to *Ayer*, *Bethune*, &c. and so to *Lisle*. But as those People of *Fruge* and St. Paul are principally employ'd by the Merchants of *Lisle*, in Combing, Spinning, Dubbling and Twisting of Worsted, and in making it fit for the Weaver and the Stocking-maker, I shall say no more about them here; but proceed to *Lisle*.

Lisle is a large well fortify'd Town in *French Flanders*; and is at this time in the Hands of the *French King*. At this Town they make some Broad and Narrow Cloth, and a few Druggets: But the principal Assortments of Goods that are made here, are divers sorts of Stuffs and Stockings, of which they make large Quantities. There are near 1000 Looms employ'd in making of Camblets, some *English* Ell-wide, and some Three Quarters of a Yard wide, all made of *English* or *Irish Wool*; and a much greater Number with mix'd *Wool*, in making the same sorts of Goods. Besides, there are a great many Hundred Looms at work in the making of Calimancoes, Figur'd, Strip'd and Plain, and several sorts of Worsted Stuffs, as Cambletees, Sattenets, Purnelloes, plain, strip'd and spotted Stuffs, &c. with some Stuffs that are mix'd with Silk, Mohair, &c. There are also a great many Stockings and

Caps.

Caps made here, both knit and weaved. This Branch is much encreas'd within a few Years; for about 12 Years ago, there were not above 10 or 12 Frames in this Town; and now there are near 200 at Work, and one half of those Frames are employ'd in making Hose, and Caps, of all *English* and *Irish Wool*; and are sold in all the Shops for such. The other Frames are employ'd in the making Hose and Caps, with about half their *own Wool*, and half *our Wool*. The first Man that put them in the way to make fine Hose, was one *Abraham Thomas*, that went from *Bishopsgate-street*, to learn them this Art. There are no *Englishmen* at work in this Town now, and but one *Irishman*, whose Name is *Stockin*, and is a Stocking-maker: They comb a great deal of *Wool* in this Town, but send more to *St. Paul* and *Fruge*, &c. which is near 40 Miles Distance from *Lisle*; they send this *Wool* in the ruff, so have it comb'd, spun, doubled and twisted, and made fit for the Weaver and Stocking-maker. I have seen at those Places, great Quantities of Worsted made fit and ready for the Merchants of *Lisle*: Those Merchants at *Tourcoin* also, have a great deal of Worsted spun, &c. *Tourcoin* is about 12 Miles from *Lisle*, and is a very large Town for Combing and Spinning: I have seen a Person of *Tourcoin* bring a Sample of Comb'd *Wool*, and offered it to Sale to a Stocking-maker of *Lisle*, by the Name of *English Wool*, I had the Top of the *Wool* in my Hand: And at the same time, one Madam *Dislobbes*, that is a great Manufacturer at *Lisle*, told me, That in all the Calimancoes and Camblets they make, she used more or less *English Wool*, and could not do without *our Wool*; in some half, and in some two Thirds of *our Wool*. I saw several Pieces, some Scarlet, Blue, and some White, which were for the *Spanish* and *Portugal* Trade.

THE reason that the *Lisle* Merchants send their *Wool* to *St. Paul*, *Fruge*, *Tourcoin*, &c. to be comb'd, spun, doubled, and twisted, is, because Labour is cheaper at those Places, than at *Lisle*: And upon the Whole, Labour is cheaper here by 30 per Cent. at least, than it is in any Part of *England*, where the same sorts of Goods are made; as *London* and *Norwich*, for Camblets, Calimancoes, Crapes, and Silk and Worsted Stuffs, &c. and *London*, *Leicester*, *Darby* and *Nottingham*, for making Hose.

THE poor People live hard at those Places, their chief Diet is Bread, Fruit, Herbs and Roots, with a little dry'd Fish: As for Flesh, they eat very little. The Magistrates take care that the Farmers and Forestallers of Markets shall not sell the Corn at Market to make Bread dear, in order to pinch the Poor Manufacturers. In order to prevent this Evil, the Magistrates have built a Store House in a convenient Part of the Town, Ten Stories high; in the Upper Rooms of it, they lay Wheat, Rye and Barley; and in the Cellars they lay Wine, Oil and Brandy: Those Goods are bought up when they are cheap, and so soon as the Markets are short, and Goods begin to rise in the Price, then the Store House is opened for the Poor, that they may buy what they have occasion for, at the old Market Price. This Store-House was built since the Woollen Manufactory hath so encreased in this Town, in order to support that Fabrick, which is a great Encouragement to the Manufacturers, and a Means to keep Labour low; all other Things that are needful for the Poor are also cheap in Proportion, as Candles, Soap, Oil, &c.

THEY have all the proper Methods imaginable, to help their Facturers; they allow their poor Journeymen that work in their own Houses, to take Apprentices; and none are taken above 2 or 3 Years at most, and then the Boys may work for others if they please; and if a Boy has learn'd his Trade well, his Master that he worked for, will give him Eighteen-pence or two Shillings a Week, according to his Merit he is paid; for that is the Method at this Place, to agree with them for Weekly Wages. I know an *Irish* Stocking-maker of this Town took an Apprentice of near 20 Years old, who before he had been Six Months at the Trade, set up to make Goods for himself; by this Method, giving Liberty to those Boys to have a Right to the Trade for one, two or three Years Service, they have always Hands enough at their command to supply their Factories; and this makes them that have a good Place of Work, take all the care imaginable to please their Masters, that they may keep in Work. For it is at this Town, as at *Abbeville*; no Man will employ another Man's Servant, without a good Recommendation from his former Master. There is a great many,

many Camblets, Calimancoes, Stuffs, Stockings, &c. that are made within a few Miles of this Town, which are brought and sold to the Merchants, which are dy'd, dress'd, press'd and pack'd here; and then sent to *Spain*, *Portugal* and *Italy*: Nay in every Town in *France*, *Flanders*, *Holland*, and in the *German* Dominions, you will find *Lise* Stuffs, &c. they make all their Goods full Breadth, whether Half Yard, three Quarters Yard, or Yard a Quarter wide, and fill them well with Shooze and Warpe, which are heavier and thicker in Proportion, than we make our Goods of the same Quality, which makes the Foreigners esteem them better than ours; there is hardly a Day in the Year, but you may see Carriages bringing of Wool or Woollen Goods to and from this famous Trading Town of *Lise*.

THE Magistrates of this Town, as a further Encouragement to the Woollen Manufacturers, obtained a Grant from the King of *France*, to prohibit the Wear of *India* Calicoes, or Linnens, Cottons, &c. that was Printed, Painted, Stain'd, or Dyed: And a Proclamation was issued out accordingly, to prevent the Wearing or Selling any of the above Goods, or in any Part of *French Flanders*. This Proclamation was issued out *May* the 6th, 1736, and gave but three Weeks time to the Merchants and Shopkeepers to vend their Goods; and now there is none of those Goods to be seen in any of those Towns in all *French Flanders*, &c. This Law was in *France* before, but did not extend to *French Flanders*: And now is punctually kept and observed throughout the *French* King's Dominions. I cou'd wish, for the sake of the Woollen Manufactory of this Kingdom, that we had a Law made, to prohibit the Wear of those sorts of Goods in *Great Britain* and *Ireland*; and that as justly observed and kept: Notwithstanding this Law in *France* that prohibits the Wear of those printed Calicoes, &c. the King of *France* hath an *India Company* in his Country, but all that he looks over, to support the Woollen Manufactory of his own Territories. I brought with me several Patterns of their Calimancoes, Camblets, Stuffs and Stockings; which I have now by me.

ABOUT 7 Years ago, a Merchant that lived in *Goodman's-Fields* persuaded one *George Gwin* to go to *Lise*, to teach the *French* to cast and

and cut the Brass Rolls, and make the other Parts of an Engine, to Water Harrateens and Cheney's withal. And when I heard of it, I went to *Lille* to persuade him to return to *England*, and not to teach the *French* that Art; at first he seem'd to comply, and told me he would return in a short time: But when I left him, they still persuaded him to stay; and some time after I apply'd to the Board of Trade, to have some Iron that was cast at the Bank-side, *Southwark*, stop'd from going Abroad to Mr. *Gwin*; and altho' I attended a great many times at the Board of Trade, and the Custom-house, I could not prevent those Pieces of Iron being sent Abroad. This Iron was to help to make another Engine, that was to be sent to *Tholone*. I having had a great deal of Trouble to get *Gwin* to *England*, and to stop, if possible, this Cast Iron from going Abroad; but all was unsuccessful. Then I apply'd to a certain Honourable Gentleman, to have him Recall'd; who was pleased to comply with my Request, and wrote over immediately to my Lord *Waldegrave*, which is the King of Great-Britain's Ambassador at *Paris*; who immediately sent an Order to Mr. *George Gwin* at *Lille*, by the Hands of Mr. *W—s*, the Messenger, and the Purport of this Order was, "That *Gwin* should immediately return to Great Britain, his Native Country, or he should be declared an Alien, &c. as the Law in that Case directs." Upon *Gwin's* receiving of this Letter, he immediately return'd to *London*, his old Place of Abode; so that the Rolls that were designed for *Tholone*, were never finished, neither had the *French* learned how to cast them, and cut the Figures on the Rolls, &c. But since, the *Lille* Merchants have had those Rolls, &c. finished, they have made, dyed, and warred a great many Cheyneys and Harrateens, both to serve themselves and other Countries, that we had used to serve. But I do humbly hope, when this Engine is wore out, no Man from Great Britain will go over to make them another.

Tourcoin is a large Country Market Town, about 3 Leagues from *Lille*, and is in the Hands of the *French* King, and so is call'd *French Flanders*. This Town is well stor'd with the Woollen Manufactory, there being many Thousand Hands employ'd in the Combing, Spinning

ning, &c. and the greater Part of the Wool that is wrought up here, is either *Irish* or *English*; and great Part of it is brought to this Place by the way of *Holland*. I was at this Town in *October*, 1736, when I bought a Sample of Worsted, which is some of the best Spinning I ever saw in my Lite, I bought it by the Name of *English* Worsted, it being made of all our Wool. The Reason that whatsoever Goods are sold in those Parts for *English* Goods, tho' made on the Spot, is, because the *English* Manufacturers formerly had the Character of making the best of Goods; and would we keep our Wool at home, we still should bear the Bell away; for this Worsted that is made and sold here by the Name of *English* Worsted, bears a better Price, by 40 *French* Pence a Pound, than any Worsted they do or can make of their own Country Wool; Forty *French* Pence, is about Twenty Pence *English*: They send this fine *English* Worsted, as they call it, to *Paris*, *Lille*, *Holland*, *Flanders*, &c. I have been at this Town, when the Roads were very bad from this Place to *Courtray*, where the Waggons come from *Ghent* to meet the Waggons from this Place, but the Roads was so bad that the Carriages could not pass cross the Country, to carry the Yarn that was spun here to *Courtrey*, and bring from thence Wool, as their Custom is constantly every Week: The People of this Town were so careful of their Master's Trade, because the Waggons from *Courtrey* should not go away empty, hired Men, and put the Yarn upon large Wheel-barrows, and had them drawn along a Foot Causeway that is pav'd from *Tourcoin* to *Minnin*, which is about 5 or 6 Miles distant, and is about as far a distance from *Courtray*, as *Tourcoin*. But when they come to *Minnin*, it is the High Road from *Lille* to *Courtray*, and is always very good. I only mention this to shew, how very careful those People are of our Wool, when they have got it; and how careless we are at Home, or they never would have it from us.

A L L the Worsted that is carried this Way, belongs to the *Hollanders*, as I shall shew in its proper Place. I was told by the Riding General of the Customs of this Town, that there is 14 Persons in the Town that make Wool-Combs; tho' I suppose they do not wholly depend upon that particular Branch of Business, if they did,

there

there must be a vast Number of Wool-Combers in that Neighbourhood, for there is but two Wool Comb-Makers in this great City of *London*. The common Necessaries of Life are very plentiful and cheap at this Town, *viz.* Soap, Oil, Candles and Charcoal ; four very useful Things in the Woollen Manufactory. Both Combing and Spinning is cheaper here, than at *Lille* ; which is the reason that the *Lille* Merchants have so much of their fine Work done here. A Gentleman of this Town told me, That the fine Spinning is, by the *Dutch*, sent to *Spain*, *Italy*, &c. The next Town in this Neighbourhood that is of Note, is *Roubaix*.

Roubaix is about 4 or 5 Miles from *Tourcoin* ; at this Place they employ many Hundreds of Hands in the making of fine Calimancoes, Camblets, and other fine Stuffs ; the finest of those Goods is made all with either *English* or *Irish* Wool ; but they do make a greater Number of Goods with our Wool and their own Country Wool mix'd together ; these Goods that are made here, are chiefly made for the *Lille* Merchants, Labour being lower here, than at *Lille*, and about the same Price as at *Tourcoin* ; Provisions and other Necessaries are about the same Price. The next Town is *Lannoy*, which is another Manufacturing Town for Woollen Goods.

Lannoy is about 4 Miles from *Roubaix* ; at this Place they make great Numbers of Calimancoes, Camblets, Silks and Worsted Stuffs mix'd, &c. The Provisions and other useful Necessaries for Trade, are about the same Price here, as at *Tourcoin* ; so is the Labour. I have nam'd only three Towns in this Neighbourhood, that is famous for the Woollen Manufactories ; but if I wou'd go to small Places, I might name a Hundred Villages round the Country, that have the Woollen Manufactory in them, for Combers, Spinners, Weavers, &c. and are as Plenty here, as at any Part of the *West of England*. But before I leave this Country, I must just observe, that notwithstanding Labour is so low in those Parts, the poorer People all round the Country are well Cloathed, and all their Families, (I wish I could say so by the great Manufacturing Towns in *England* :) But shou'd I be so happy as to see the Day that the Owling of Wool from *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*

Ireland to foreign Parts was stop'd, then we should have our Hands full of Work, and our poor Artificers once more be well Feed and Cloathed; then we shall see our Poor once more have chearful Looks, and pray for those that put their Hands to this great and good Work, which I hope will speedily be accomplish'd. As to the governing and managing their Work-folks, they at this Place take the same Method as at *Lisle*.

BUT before I leave the *French* Dominions, I must observe to you, that the *French* do prohibit all sorts of the Woollen Manufactory being brought into their Country, nay, all sorts of *English* Manufactories, as well as the Woollen, is prohibited by the Laws of their Country; which Laws they strictly observe and keep. I wish with all my Heart, that amongst the many Laws we have in *England*, we were so good to ourselves as to keep punctually those few Laws that are made to prevent the Owling of Wool; then we should be a happy People. Amongst the many Instances that I might give you of the Severities of the *French* in seizing of any *English* Woollen Manufactories, I shall only name one that happen'd in *October*, 1737. There was one Mr. *Hilliard*, that went from *Dover* to *Calis* with some Horses to the *French* King, as he said, and had with him three Pair of *English* Blankets for an *English* Gentleman at *Paris*; and when he arrived at *Calis*, he put the Blankets upon his Horses, as if they were Horse Cloaths; no sooner had the Horses enter'd the Town, but the Custom-house Officers seiz'd the Blankets, as Contraband Goods, altho' on the Backs of Six of the King's Horses: *Hilliard* thinking himself injur'd, as being employ'd by the King of *France*, ordered a Lawyer at *Calis* to sue the Officers for seizing his Horse Cloaths, which the Lawyer did accordingly, and *Hilliard* proceeded on his Journey to *Paris* but when he returned to *Calis*, he found to his great Surprize, that he was cast, and condemn'd to pay 3000 Livers, which is near 150*l.* Sterling Money, and wou'd have been sent to Goal till he had paid the Money, had not Monsieur *Denogue*, Treasurer to the King of *France*'s Troops, answer'd for his Appearance; and at the same time made Application for to have this Fine a little mitigated. By this

single Instance, we may see how very strict and severe the *French* are, with any thing of the Woollen Manufactories that are brought into their Territories ; for if they will prosecute a Person for so coarse a Thing as Blankets, what would they do if they should catch an *Englishman* in Smuggling in fine Calimancoes, Camblets, Hose, &c. no less than the Gallies, I suppose, would be their Fate. As this is the Case with the *French* and us, I think that it shou'd rouse and stir up every true *Briton* to set his Heart and Hand to work, to prevent the Owling of *Wool* to the *French*, &c. which is the very Marrow and Vitals of our Country ; if *that* was but once accomplish'd, then the proud haughty *French* would be thankful to us, that we will not only send them Blankets, but all sorts of Woollen Manufactories for Cloathing, as we used to do in former Times, and then must pay us Ready-Money for them, if we do insist on it ; whereas, as the Case stands at this Time, it is my Opinion, that the *French* have all the Wool they have occasion of, for nothing, from *Great Britain* and *Ireland* ; for what Wool the *French* have from the Owlers, is paid for with Wines, Teas, Brandies and other Things, for Luxuary only, &c. which are smuggled into *Great Britain* and *Ireland* ; and as that pays no Duty, it only serves to ruin the honest Fair Trader, and encourage Luxury, and cheat the King of his Revenue.

BESIDES this sort of Trade the *French* take from *Great Britain* and *Ireland* at least 600,000*l.* a Year in ready Specie, in a fair way of Trade and Merchandise, for nothing but what is luxurious, and such Things as we can do without, viz. Wines, Brandies, and so forth : I am sure the Profits of this 600,000 will over-ballance what the *French* give of the same Commodity for *our Wool* : So upon the Whole, the *French* do not pay any thing for this so valuable a Jewel, *The fine Combing Wool of Great Britain and Ireland* : And this doth not only drain away their perishable Commodities, and empty their Store-Houses of those Things that we piss against the Wall, &c. but it fills their Country with the *English* Gold, which is durable, and will never find the Way back to Old *England*, till we are so wise and good to ourselves, to keep our *Wool* at home. I have known within these 4 Years, that

that the French Troops in *Picardy, Artois* and *Bolougne*, was paid for Three Months together with English Gold: And I had occasion about that Time to go to *France*, and did land 3 English Horses at *Calis*, for which I was to pay Three *Lewis d'Ors*, or 3 French Guineas, but could not get them in all the Town of *Calis*; so was obliged to get a Gentleman of *Calis* to give his Note to the Custom-house Officers, for the Three Guineas, and he took my English Gold of me. I only mention this, to shew how kind we are to the French, that hates us with perfect Hatred; and how base and cruel we are to our own Native Country, in doing all that is in our Power to inrich the French, and to destroy and beggar ourselves: This is so Self-evident to every Impartial Man, that I need not say any thing more upon this Subject.

Tournay is a large strong Garrison, and is the first on this Side, that belongs to the Emperor; it is about 15 or 16 Miles from *Lisle*: At this Town there are a few fine Silk and Worsted Stuffs and Stockings made; the Worsted that they are made with, is chiefly spun about *Tourcoin*, and is made of English or Irish Wool: But the chief Part of their Trade, is coarse Stuffs and Stockings, made of their own Country Wool, and is consumed about their own Neighbourhood. Formerly this was the Principal Town of Trade in all this Country; but as the *Lisle* Merchants have encreas'd, they have decreas'd: The reason is, that the *Lisle* Merchants lie more contiguous for Trade, and have their Spinning done much cheaper than they can have it done at *Tournay*, which hath carried the Trade from *Tournay* to *Lisle*; which is a certain Rule in Trade, where Labour is cheapest, the Trade will follow, if that they can have the Materials at the same Time and Place, as cheap as where Labour is dearer: Labour being upon an Average, five times more than the first Cost of the Wool. The next Town I shall take Notice of is *Bridges*.

Bridges is a large Town 12 Miles from *Ostend*: At this Town there is a great Manufactory of Broad Seys; some few they make of all their own Wool, but a much greater Number is made of our Wool, and their own Wool mix'd together. I was told by one that was 25 Years in the Sey-making Trade, he had his Wool draw'd through the Comb

in *England*, and came to him from *London*; and said, *so long as he could find Money, he never should want English Wool.* There is all the Care imaginable taken to preserve the Trade of this Town, and good Encouragement is given to the Journeymen, &c. by the Magistrates of this Town, who would not stop at any thing in their Power, to serve that so valuable a Branch of Business, call'd the *Woollen Manufactory*; as will appear by the annex'd *Placart* or *Proclamation*, printed and published in *Flanders*, in 1731, at which Time I was in that Country. At this time the Woollen Trade began to flourish in this Town; and altho' the Manufacturers were then, and are still obliged to have *our Wool*, to make their fine Seys, &c. yet they wanted to keep out all Woollen Goods from being brought in from *England* into their Dominions, as appears by the following *Placart*: Altho the seeming Pretensions are only to prevent old Cloaths being brought into *Flanders*, which had always been allow'd till this Time; yet they had a greater *View*, in my Opinion, than the *Prohibiting of Old Cloaths*, which was to prohibit, if possible, all *New Cloth, Stuffs, &c.* being imported from *England* to *Ostend*, or to *Bridges*, or any Port belonging to the Emperor in *Flanders*. But this I shall leave to my Countrymen and Brother Manufacturers to judge of, when they have read the *Placart*, which I at that Time obtained with great Difficulty, and have carefully Translated it out of the *German Tongue* into *English, Verbatim*, which I have here printed at large.

“ *CHARLES*, by the Grace of God, Emperor of the *Romans*, continual Increaser of the Empire, King of *Germany*, of *Spain*, of *Hungary*, of *Bohemia*, &c. Archduke of *Austria*; Duke of *Burgundy*, of *Lorrain*, of *Brabant*, of *Limburg*, of *Luxemburg*, of *Geldre*, &c. Markgrave of the *Holy Empire*, &c. Earl of *Habsburg*, of *Flanders*, &c. Count Palatine of *Hainault*, and of *Namure*; Lord of the Marshes of *Eselavonia*, of *Port Naon*, of *Biscay*, of *Molines*, of *Salens*, of *Tripoli*, and of *Maklin*; Ruling Lord in *Asia* and *Africa*. The chief Overseers and Head Men of the lawful Chamber of Trade, and their Commissioners in our Cities of *Gant* and *Bridges*, having

" having represented to Us, That it was customary for many Ships to
 " come from time to time into the Harbour of our Province of *Flanders*,
 " loaden with Old Cloaths, Stuffs, and other Fabricks of Wool-
 " len, without knowing from whence they came, and without being
 " provided with a Certificate of Health, altho' they often come from
 " Places infected by the contagious Distemper; which Old Cloaths,
 " and Fabricks of Woollen are purchaseable and saleable, in our Coun-
 " tries, whereby it is to be feared, that these Lands might soon or late
 " be in Danger of being infected with the contagious Distemper, by
 " the great Quantity of old and rotten Cloaths, which the *English*
 " Nation might daily import by the Harbour of *Ostend*; which Cloaths,
 " for the major Part, are purchased from the Hospitals in *England*,
 " wherein may Persons, of all sorts of Nations and Professions, and
 " especially Sailors, may chance to die, who voluntarily sail all over
 " the World, and consequently through the whole *Levant* and the *Ar-
chipelago*, as also along the Coasts of *Persia* and of *Morea*, where
 " this Distemper doth almost continually reign, either in one or the
 " other District: That We, in order to protect these Lands from that
 " contagious Distemper, wherewith the City of *Marseilles* was visi-
 " ted in the Year 1720, did very strictly prohibit, by our express Pro-
 " clamation of the 30th of *October*, of the same Year, not only the
 " Trade with *France*, but also the Importation of all sorts of Mer-
 " chandise, subject to be tainted with the said Infection; but that
 " We also thought it expedient to interdict, by our Proclamation of
 " the 17th of *October* 1720, the Importation of all sorts of Old
 " Cloaths; and *albeit*, that the Infection is come to cease in *France*,
 " whereby the Trade of Manufactures and Commodities was tolerated,
 " that nevertheless our Proclamation of the Year 1720, relating to
 " the Importation of the aforesaid Old Cloaths was not recalled, that
 " those Old Cloaths were not comprised in the respective Tariffs,
 " under no Class of Merchandise; that therefore the Regulators of
 " Our Duties of Importation and Exportation, were not permitted, by
 " their own Authority, or by their Deputies, hitherto to suffer the free
 " Importation of all sorts of old and rotten Cloaths, whereof they
 might

" might claim the Payment of *5 per Cent.* Having likewise taken into
" Our Consideration, that the Contagion wherewith the City of
" Bridges was infected, in the Year 1664, was occasioned by the
" Importation of Old Cloaths into that Place, from *England*: They
" have humbly besought Us that we would very expreſſly, and by
" ſpecial Proclamation, prohibit the Importation of all ſorts of Old
" Cloaths, in Conformity of our prohibitory Proclamation of the 17th
" of *October* 1720, with repeated and express Orders unto all ſuch,
" whom it may concern, to conform thereto; and to the Officers,
" Waiters and Commissioners, every one of them in particular, to take
" care that no Old Cloaths be Imported into these Countries, on Pe-
" nalty of their being punctually punished and deprived of their Em-
" ployment, for Neglect or Difſimulation in this Particular; and here-
" upon having had the Advice of the Members of Our Council in
" Flanders, whereby they have further repreſented to Us, that Ex-
" perience had verified, that the infectious and other contagious Dis-
" tempers hath been introduced by the Debit and Sale of the aforesaid
" Old Cloaths, the original Cause whereof, was not as yet escaped
" the Memory of the Inhabitants of the City of *Bridges*, who were
" notable Sufferers by the ſaid Distemper; that thoſe Cloaths being
" made of Wool, or of another Ingredient moſt apt to take the In-
" fection, had at ſeveral times brought the ſame Calamity into many
" other Countries; that this Calamity is the more to be feared, becauſe
" these Old Cloaths are at preſent bought up in the Hospitals of *En-*
" *gland*, in which Country, the Forty Days are not obſerved with
" the requisite Precaution, with regard to ſuspected Ships; that for
" these Reasons, thoſe ſorts of Dealings the Old Cloaths were look'd
" upon as dangerous and ſuspicioius, and therefore were never included
" in Our Tariffs, but on the contrary very expreſſly prohibited, were
" of late, by our ſaid Proclamation of the 17th of *October*, 1720, which
" has not hitherto been recalled; that in Case the Importation of the
" aforementioned be ſtill tolerated, it will be followed by the intire
" Overthrow of the Fabricks of Cloths, and of all ſorts of Woollen
" Manufactures; as also of Stuff, Bombazines, Serges, &c. and the
" Importation

" Importation of Old Cloaths, by way of Merchandise, is not tolerated or suffered by any Sovereign Power in no other Kingdom nor State, and it is the principal Reason that such prohibitory Laws should tend to the Preservation of the Wealth, Life and Subsistence of the Subjects. We being desirous to provide against what is above-said, and to prevent such a dangerous Evil, and to hinder by all Means, that such pestilential Distempers shall not be introduced into Our Dominions, have, by the Advice of our Privy Council, and upon Deliberation of our much esteemed and dearly beloved Sister, MARY ELIZABETH, by the Grace of God, Royal Princess of Hungary, of Bohemia, and of both Sicilies, Archduchess of Austria, &c. our Stadholderess and Governess General of our Netherlands, prohibited and interdicted, and We do prohibit and interdict, by these Presents, the Importation of all sorts of Old Cloaths, either by Water or by Land, in the way of Trade ; We prohibit very expressly, to sell or consume them in these Countries, on the Penalty of Confiscation and Forfeiture of Five Hundred Guilders, for each Transgression ; one Third Part for the Informer, one Third Part for the executing Officer, and the other for Our Profit ; and for the Second time, upon any other Arbitrary Penalty, as the Case shall require, reiterately enjoyning unto every one, whom it may Concern, to conform themselves hereto, the Officers, Waiters and Commissaries, every one in particular, to take Care that no Old Cloaths be imported into these Countries, as is here before directed, on the Penalty, in case of Neglect and Connivance, of being punctually punished, and afterwards dismissed their Office.

" W E therefore command and direct Our Well-beloved and Trusty, the Head-President and Members of Our Privy-Council and Grand Council; the Chancels and Members of our Council of Brabant; the Governor, President and Members of our Council of Luxembourg; the Chancellor and Members of our Council in Gelderland; the President and Members of our Provincial Council in Flanders; the High Bailiff, President and Members of our Council of Hinault; the Governor, President and Members of our Council at N-

mure;

" mure; the Bailiff at *Torvay*, and its District; the Sheriff of *Macklin*, and all other our Justiciaries, Officers and Subjects, whom this may Concern, and every one in particular, to cause this Our present Ordinance to be immediately, and without Delay, published and affixed in every Place of their Jurisdiction respectively, where it is usual to cause Publications and Affictions to be made; and to cause the same to be observed, without Favour, Connivance or Dissimulation, For this our Pleasure.

" Given in our City of *Brussels*, the 7th of November 1731, and of Our Realms, to wit, of the *Roman Empire*, the 21st; of *Spain* the 29th; of *Hungary* and of *Bohemia*, also the 21st; signed *DE BAILLU*. Lower it was written, By Command of the Emperor and King, and Signed *F. GASTON CUVELIER*; and the Great Seal of his Majesty in Red Wax was hanging thereto, upon a double Tale of Parchment.

" AT *Brussels*, by *GEORGE FRIX*, Printer to his Imperial and Catholick Majesty, 1731.

With Priviledge of his Majesty.

THE reason that it is difficult to get a Proclamation in those Parts is, that it is not there, as it is here; for they do not print them and cry them about the Streets, but only print a certain Number, which are for proper Persons and Towns; and the Method of Declaring the Placart, is by the Sound of a Trumpet, at several proper Places in the Town; and then the Below or Under Sheriff reads the Placart; when so done, it is hung up at his Door, for one Day, and then it is to be seen no more by the Common People. This Placart or Proclamation, was published the very Day I went into *Mons*; and altho' I had a good Acquaintance in that Town, I cou'd not get one Placart, neither could I find that there was any other in the Town: But that as the Below or Under Sheriff read in the Publick Places in that Town; and as at that time I was going into the *French Dominions*, I was obliged to send to *Brussels* for one, and having a good Friend at that City, he got one from the Printer that prints for the Emperor at *Brussels*. But to return,

AT

At this Town of *Bridges*, there was formerly a large Staple Hall, where the *English* Woollen Manufactories was wont to be put; but now, with what they make themselves, and what is brought from *Ireland*, &c. our Woollen Trade is ruined, except some few particular sorts of Goods. There is at this Place an *Irishman* that keeps a Vessel to go a Smuggling of Contraband Goods to *Ireland*, and brings in Return, Wool and Woollen Manufactories, which he can best come at, so sends them up the Country, and then they are called *English Goods*: The *Wool* is wrought up into Goods, some at one Place, and some at another. This *Irish* Merchant hath an Agent at *Courtray*, that always hath some of those Goods by him, and can sell them at Under-price, which spoils the Trade for the few *English Goods* that is sent over.

THIS was told me by a Person of *Courtray*, that deals in Woollen Goods, and had used to have them from *England*, till within these 6 or 7 Years, that this *Irish* Chap came to live in *Courtray*; and since which time, he says he can hardly sell any thing at all: I was once at the *Irishman's* House, and saw his Goods. Having said what was needful of *Bridges*, I shall now proceed to *Ghent*.

N. B. When the Placart was read in 1731 in *Bridges*, the Governors of the Town order'd the next Old Cloaths that should be brought from *England*, should be Burnt; and accordingly, in a few Weeks there were several Bales landed at the Town of *Bridges*, which were burnt accordingly: They belonged to one Mrs. Black of *Ghent*. I believe the Flemings would not take it well, if we should burn their Old Linnen, when Imported into *England*.

Ghent is a very large spacious Town, and is about 26 Miles from *Bridges*; there is but little of the Woollen Manufactory in this Town; there are a few coarse broad and narrow Cloths and Lincies, and a few fine Camblets, Stuffs and Stockings made here; there is a *Frenchman* that is supported by the Town Stock, which makes a great many fine Hose, all of our Wool, which are much esteemed at this Town; but the principal Trade of this Town, and Places adjacent, is the making

of fine Linnen, where almost every Farmer is a Weaver, they grow, dress, spin and weave the Flax: Some Farmers have 5 or 6 Looms; some 2 or 3; and some but one, according as they have Numbers of Servants, and he must be a very poor Farmer, that doth not keep one Loom. Those People are excellent Husbands, both in the House and in the Field; their Wives, Daughters and Maids, dress and spin the Flax; and the Sons and Servants weave it Night and Morning, and upon wet Days, when they cannot work in the Field. But this is a Digression from my Purpose; only I observe, should their Linnen Trade fail, and the Foreigners continue to have *our Wool*, and those *Flemings* about *Ghent* should turn their Heads and Hands to the Woollen Manufactories, as they have to the Linnen, they would be soon as Prejudicial to our *Woollen Trade in England*, as the People at *Lille*, and the Places adjacent to that Town, are at this Time. At this Town of *Ghent*, there is to be seen vast large Stocks of all sorts of *Lille*, *Amion*, *Robais* and *Lannoy* Stuffs in the Drapers Shops, which are bought up by the Neighbouring People, who are generally People of good Substance; and even those who are of the poorer Sort, are in general well Cloathed. The next Town that I shall observe, is *Brussels*, which is 30 Miles from *Ghent*.

Brussels is a large fine Town, the Metropolitan of *Flanders*, where the Archduchess keeps her Court. There are but few Woollen Fabricks at this Town, there are a few broad and narrow Cloths made, but not very fine; they also make some Druggets and Hose; but the principal Goods that are made here, are fine Camblets, in which they use some of *our Wool*; they also make a few Silk and Worsted, fine Stuffs, and the Worsted they make the fine Goods with, is spun at or near *Tourcoin*. There is a large Tapestry Factory, the Master of it told me, he could not make the best sort of Tapestry, without *English Wool*, and that they had no Spinning in all *Flanders*, for that Use, as what he had from *Amiens* in *France*, which Worsted is made of all *English Wool*, and he gives a good Price for it; they have try'd the Yarn from *England*, but he says none will answer his End, so well as the Worsted or Yarn that is spun at *Amiens*. At this Town they are

are served with their Shalloons and Seys from *Leige*, and have them White, because they have a great many Dyers in this Town; therefore to Encourage them, they will have them all White, and when dyed and pressed; the Merchants serve all that Neighbourhood with Shalloons, &c. I have seen many Waggon Loads come into this Town in one Day. I shall now proceed to *Leige*, which is a Principality of itself, and belongs to the Emperor, it is about 25 Leagues from *Brussels*.

Liege is a large Town where the Prince of *Liege* keeps his Court: At this Place is made several sorts of Stuffs; but the principal sorts are Seys and Shalloons, which are sent White to many Parts of *Flanders*, *Zeland* and *Holland*; and in Return from *Holland*, they take some of our *Engiish* long fine Wool, to make their Warpe for their fine Seys and Shalloons. But the chief Assortments of Goods, is a middling Shalloon, which is made heavier than our Shalloons of the same Quality by a Pound, and sometimes more, which makes the *Hollanders* and *Flemings* chuse them before ours. As to Labour it is much about the same Price here, as at *Tourcoin*; if any thing, a little lower: These Common Shalloons, tho' they are heavier than ours, are sold in *Holland* 5*s.* in 30 Yards, cheaper than any *English* Merchant can sell his Goods of the same Length and Breadth. I saw some of those Goods once at the *Hague* in *Holland*, compared with a Maker's Goods that was then present, who declared, there was no such thing as making a Shalloon in *England*, of the same Length, Weight and Breadth, so cheap by 10*l. per Cent.* White, as the Shopkeeper had them delivered to him at the *Hague*, ready dyed and pressed, &c. The next Town is *Antwerp*.

Antwerp is a fine beautiful City, situate on the River *Scheld*, and formerly was the very greatest Town in all *Flanders*, but now there is very little Trade at it; yet there is a few fine Hose, Stuffs and Camblets made for their own Use; they also make some coarse Cloths, Linnens, Druggets, &c. The fine Hose and Stuffs are made Part of *English Wool*, and Part of their own *Country Wool*: What is made at this Place is consumed in the Neighbourhood. And now I am at

this Town of *Antwerp*, I will just make a Trip to *Zeland*, a Neigh-bouring Island, the Principal Town is *Midleburgh*.

Midleburgh in *Zeland* is a fine large City, and is the Metropolis of *Zeland*; at this Town there are a few Stocking-makers, who comb their own Wool, and have it spun round about the Country. I was at one of the Master Comber's House, that employed about 10 Wool Combers. I saw the Worsted they made, and it not being so good as *English Wool* would make, I asked him if *English Worsted* wou'd not be acceptable to him? he said No; for that he would not have *English Wool* ready comb'd from *England*, much more the Worsted, but would have it ruff, as it came from the Sheep's Back, and have it sorted and comb'd by his own People, and so employ their own poor People in Spinning of it, &c. They also told me, that *English Wool* ready comb'd, and *English Worsted* and *Tarn*, was forbid to be brought into that Island, and if any should be brought, it would be confiscated; but said they had sometimes *Wool* from *Scotland* in the Fleece.

THIS is a plain Proof, that other Countries, tho' never so small a Branch of the Woollen Manufactory appears amongst them, the Magistrates become the Guardians of those that labour at that Trade, which is the very Reason that I have mentioned so small a Branch of Trade, as there is at this Town: I wish I could say the same of the Magistrates of the many great Manufacturing Towns in *England*, as those few that are at *Midleburgh* can say of their Magistrates, *That they are the Fathers of their Manufactures*. And now I have just took a short View of this small Branch, I will give some account of *Leyden*, in the Province of *Holland*.

Leyden is a large spacious Town, and hath a University at it: At this Place is made a great deal of Broad Cloth, all with *Spanish Wool*, it's a thin, fine Cloth; they also make some Drabs here, and they are mix'd some with *our Wool*, and some with *Spanish Wool*: Labour being dearer at this Place, than at some distant Places, the Merchants send their Wool raw, to a Place call'd *Fibourg*, near *Baldwick* in *Flanders*: At this Place they have their Undertakers to wash, card and spin the Wool, and weave the Yarn into Cloth; and here they only

only make a white middling Cloth ; this Wool is part *Spaniſh*, and part *Engliſh* or *Irliſh*. What induced the Merchants of *Leyden* to ſend their Wool to *Tilbourg* to be Manufactored, was, that the *Hollanderſ* found that the *French* and *Germans* had ſe up new Manu-factories in Places where Labour was cheaper than at *Leydon*, and ſo ſerved the Foreign Markets where the *Hollanderſ* used to ſerve ; more particularly the *French*, for they found the way to Foreign Markets first with these ſorts of Goods which they make in *Normandy*, and other Parts of *France*.

ABOUT 30 Years ago, there was at *Leyden*, upwards of 900 Looms that made Broad Cloth, and now there is but about 400 ; yet the Trade, as to Merchandize, hath no ways deceas'd ; for the Merchants of this Town do now employ 600 Broad Looms at *Tilbourg*, &c. which before that time they employ'd none at that Place ; thoſe white Cloths that are made at *Tilbourg*, are ſent back to *Leyden*, when wrought, to be mill'd, dress'd, dyed and press'd, &c. So that upon the Whole, tho' the Trade in ſome of the Branches is removed from *Leyden*, yet the Merchants have encreas'd their Trade about one 10th, as to Looms, more than it was 30 odd Years ago. This is done by the Cheapneſs of Labour at *Tilbourg*, &c. for the Merchants can have a Piece of Cloth of this middling Sort, made cheaper at *Tilbourg* than at *Leyden*, by 33 Guilders ; and 33 Guilders is 3 l. Sterling : Thoſe Pieces are about 35 *English* Yards long, when they are dress'd and finish'd fit for a Market, by changing the Place for the Manufacturing of thoſe middling ſorts of Cloths, the *Hollanderſ* have preferv'd their Trade ; thoſe Cloths are dy'd into Red, Green, Blue, &c. and, when finish'd, they are ſent to *Smyrna*, *Haly*, *Turkey*, and other Foreign Markets, and in Return they bring home Silk, Mohair, Fruit, &c. Besides this ſort of White Cloth, they make a pretty deal of mix'd Cloths, and ſome Druggets, which are chiefly ſent to Foreign Markets.

THE RE is alſo a large Manufactory of divers ſorts of Stuff's, as Seys, Camblets, Silk and Worſted Stuff's, and Worſted and Mohair Stuff's of divers kinds ; the Seys are made of two ſorts, the best are made with all our Wool ; the ſecond about half ours, and half their own Wool.

But

But this Branch of Trade could not be carry'd on with Success, unless they had a cheap Place for Combing and Spinning their Wool, which they have done in and about *Tourcoin* in *French Flanders*; to this Place they send their Wool ready sorted, and have their Undertakers that take care to have the Work well done, and send it back to *Leyden*. The Merchants of *Leyden* not only serve themselves with this Worsted that is spun at *Tourcoin*, but send it to several Places of *Flanders* and *Germany*: By this Method of the *Hollanders*, finding out cheap Places for Labour, they drive a prodigious Trade in Wool and Worsted; for at *Tourcoin* they have their Wool comb'd and spun 20 per Cent. cheaper than they can have it done for at *Leyden*, and when it is spun, it is the best Spinnning I ever saw in my Life. The *Hollanders* are so Cunning, that they purchase Wool from *Spain*, *Portugal*, *England*, *Germany*, *Hambrough*, and several other Places; and being very curious Sorters, they take Pains to do it well; and when so done, they send not only Worsted, but some of the Wool to *Germany*, and several other Places, that they buy Wool from themselves; when it is thus managed, they divide their Combing Wool into three Sorts, and call them by the following Names, viz. *English*, *Holland* and *Boy Wool*: But the *English* and *Irish Wool* is the Support of all the *Wool* they buy for Combing, that being of a thick, fine, full, long, strong Staple, and is fit for mixing with other *Wool*, such as *German*, *French*, *Flemish* and *Hollands Wool*. By this Method they serve all their Neighbours with *Wool* and *Worsted*, nay, they are able to serve us with *Worsted* made from our own *Wool*; I have some of the Samples by me. The *Dutch* take all Care imaginable to keep up and preserve this Trade; as allowing of the Journeymen to take Apprentices, and Boys to be Free, for serving Two or Three Years, with several other Advantages that they do allow their Work-Folks: I know an *Englishman*, that was a Scribbler in this Town, that was allow'd 25 Men to work under him, and he had a Profit out of them all; but that did not hold long: For both *French*, *Flemings* and *Dutch*, will not keep any *Englishman* to work in their *Woollen Fabricks*, no longer than while they can learn some thing out of them; and when they have got all they want out

out of them, they must go about their Business, or the Masters will set their other Men on to use them ill, which an *Englishman* will not bear; neither will they employ either *English* or *Irish* Workmen, except they are superior Hands, and exceed in some Branch of the Trade. I have known those Parts near 14 Years, and never found but 8 *English* and *Irishmen* working in their *Woollen Manufactories*, and now there is but two in all the Places that I know abroad. Soap, Candles, Oil, &c. are pritty reasonable here; but the People live better, and in a quite different Manner at this Town, to what the poor People do in *France* and *Flanders*; tho' the Poor in *Flanders* live much better than those in *France*. Labour for the Spinning, Combing, &c. is dearer at this Town, than at the Places abovementioned; yet it is cheaper than it is in any Part of *England*, where they make the same sorts of Goods, as they make at this Place.

Harlem is a fine old Town, lieth between *Amsterdam* and *Leyden*: At this Place is made a great many fine Silk and Worsted Stuffs, mix'd with *English* and *Irish Wool*; such as Crapes, Poplins, and several sorts of figur'd and plain Stuffs. The Merchants of this Town send their Wool to *Tourcoin* in *French Flanders*, to be comb'd and spun, &c. they make two sorts of Worsted; the fine is made of all *our Wool*; the other sort is made with about one Third *our Wool* and two Thirds of their *own Wool*: They distinguish their Worsted thus; the fine they call *English*, the other *Hollands Worsted*. They not only make Worsted for their own Use, but serve some Parts of *Germany* and *Flander* with fine Worsted.

Amsterdam is the chief City in *Holland*, for Trade: At this Place they make some Camblets, with divers others of Silk and Worste Stuffs, much the same sorts of Goods as is made at *Harlem* and *Leyden*: The Merchants of this Town have their Wool comb'd and spun at *Tourcoin*, after the same Manner as the Merchants of *Leyden* and *Harlem* have theirs done. I was in this Town in July 1735, and found that theré was Three *Englishmen* near this Place, had set up Manufactory to make flower'd. Damask, Russels, Calimancoes, & they began the first Piece with Worsted made all of *Hollands Wool*.

I saw the Piece in the Loom; the Worsted was doubled and twisted, but the Wool being short, sower, hard and coarse, it chafed all to pieces, so that they were obliged to cut it out of the Loom; then they got some Worsted made with part *English Wool*, and that was exceeding good. This Worsted was bought of a Merchant of this Town, I have a Sample by me of the same Worsted, and the Merchants own Hand, to shew what Price those Weavers gave for it; and he said he wou'd serve me with what Quantity I would have, at the same Price they gave him; which is a great deal cheaper than we can make it in *England*. Those Weavers made a Piece of flower'd Calimancoe with this Worsted single, and made good Work of it; several more Chains was preparing of the same Worsted, when I was there: They had 5 Looms set up at work, and a *Dutchman* a weaving in one of them, that was planted upon them by the Merchants, to see their Proceedings. I took care to have them mov'd from thence, by the Assistance of an Honourable Gentleman, who was then at the *Hague*; and they soon came back to *England*, and returned to their old Place of Abode, which was in *Norfolk*; but since they returned, I will not name their Names. They were set up by the *Dutch* Merchants, at the Instigation of one *Thompson*, a Broker at this Town: When they found the Weavers were moving off, they seiz'd all their Looms and Tackling, in order to carry on the Businesst themselves. I met one time in this Country, a Merchant that came from *Zurick* in *Germany*, which told me, that they carry on a constant Trade with the *Dutch*, in buying of fine Worsted and fine long Wool, and always buy them by the Name of *English Wool* and *English Worsted*: With this fine Wool and Worsted, he told me, they make fine Stuffs, mix'd with Silk; and some of their Wool they mix with their own Wool, and make a second sort of Stuffs with it; and when the Stuffs are made and dress'd, he faith, the chief Part of them are sent to *Italy*. and that they have in Return, silk and Cotton.

WHAT I have said relating to the *Woollen Manufacturers* in Foreign Parts, as to taking of Apprentices for no more than *Two or three Years*, is to shew my Countrymen how happy we are in *Great Britain*,

Britain, to what they are Abroad; for, by our Laws, no Man can infringe upon the Property of another, by taking of Boys, Apprentices, &c. for less than *Seven Years*, nor any more than *Two* of them at one time, till the eldest Apprentice is in his *Last Year*. I hope we shall always continue in this happy State, and that the *Woollen Manufacturers* may support themselves in every Article that the Laws hath provided for the well ordering of the *Woollen Trade*; and that we may, *One and All*, set ourselves to that laudable Undertaking, of *Preventing the Exporting of our Wool to Foreign Parts*; and *That*, and *that only*, will support all our Rights and Properties we now enjoy in our Woollen Trades above our Neighbours. The Wool being preserved and kept at Home, will soon rise in the Price, in Proportion to *Woollen Goods* rising in their Price at Foreign Markets. Then the *Farmer, Grazier, Manufacturer, &c.* will enjoy the Blessings and Sweets of manufacturing up all *our own Wool at Home*; nay, the whole *Nation* in general will be Gainers by it: For it is always to be observed in *Great Britain*, that when the *Woollen Manufactory* is in a flourishing State, all other *Trades* and *Callings, &c.* are in a thriving Condition; and the contrary, that when the *Fabricks of Wool* decays, all other Trades and Callings dwindle in Proportion to *That*.



PROPOSALS

Humbly offered in order to form a BILL for
the Preventing the Clandistine *Exportation*
of *British* and *Irish* WOOL into Foreign
Parts.

THAT proper Persons be appointed to take an account of all the *Wool* that shall be shorn or pulled in *Great Britain* Yearly, who are to be placed as near and convenient as possible to the Wool Growers, Wool Staplers, Jobbers, &c.
THAT every Farmer, Grazier, Cottager, Butcher, or any other Person that have any Sheep or Lambs, either in Pastures, Fields, Commons, Sheep Walks, Forests, &c. shall give an account in Writing between the Day of and the Day of of all Sheep and Lambs in their Fields, Commons, Inclosures, &c. and whether they are their own, or in keeping for any other Person, and for whom by Name, to the Persons to be appointed, as aforesaid; which Account is to be signed by one Witness, or more, and to be entered into a Book for that purpose, by such Person as shall be appointed.

THAT every Farmer, Grazier, &c. shall give Ten Days Notice, at least, to the Person before-mentioned, when and where he intends to shear his Sheep or Lambs, and shall specify the Number in Writing, i.e. she, or they have to shear, which is to be entered into another Book for that purpose.

THAT,

THAT if any Grazier, Farmer, Grower of Wool, &c. shall conceal any Sheep or Lambs, and not give an account as aforesaid, to forfeit for every Sheep or Lamb so concealed; or if they shall not give such Notice in Writing to the Person before-mentioned, of the Time and Place of shearing their Sheep and Lambs, to forfeit and the Informer to be intitled to both Forfeitures.

THAT every Grower of Wool, &c. shall provide Scales and Weights, which are to be fixed at the Shearing-time, proper for weighing the same by the Person above, who is to take an account, as well of the Number of Fleecees, as of their Weight, and that the same shall be entered into a Book, with the Name of the Owner, and the Quantity, and where lodged, and deliver in Writing the Number of Fleecees and Weight to the Owner of the Wool.

THAT every Fellmonger, or other Person, shall send an Account to the Person above, of what is pulled by him, and the Number of Skins from which it was pulled; and that the Person above may have Power to search the Fellmongers Yards, only at seasonable Times, once in a Week, or oftner, as there shall be occasion, and to take an account of the Number of Skins pulled, and the Quality of the Wool; that the said Farmer, Fellmonger, Butcher, &c. shall provide Scales and Weight or forfeit

THAT no Grower, Seller of Wool, Fellmonger, &c. shall remove or sell any of his Wool, without a Let-pass from the Person above for the purpose, which Let-pass is to set forth the Place of Abode of the Buyer and Seller, and the Time allowed to carry the Wool to the Place where it is to be lodged, and the Number of Fleecees, if Fleece Wool; if Fell Wool the Quality of it, and the Weight; and that all Let-passes shall be stamped or marked with a different Stamp, one for Fell Wool, and the other for Fleece Wool, which are to be indented, and a Counter-pass to be left with the Officer, to prevent Frauds or Impositions; and if any Person shall Counterfeit or Forge the said Stamp, to forfeit and be Imprison'd for

THAT for every Pack of Wool, containing 240 lb. which shall be so removed, one Shilling shall be paid to the Officer, (and so in Proportion)

or any greater or lesser Quantity) for a Let-pass, before the same shall be removed, which Let-pass shall be sent with the Wool so sold or removed, and be delivered to the proper Officer as soon as possible, where the Wool is carried to, who is to file the Let-pass, and make an Entry of the same in a Book, and send Notice to the Officer that granted the Let-pass, that he hath received so many Packs of Wool, of the Quality set forth in the Let-pass; and this Acknowledgment to be filed also, with the Officer that first gave the Let-pass; and if such Wool shall not be sold to a Manufacturer, but to a Jobber, &c. such Wool, if it be sold or removed again, shall pay 3 d. a Pack, and so in Proportion (before it be removed) for a second Let-pass, and as often as the same shall be removed, to have fresh Let-passes till it comes into the Hands of the Manufacturer; and if the Manufacturer does not use the same himself, but sells any Part, he shall take a Let-pass from the proper Officer before it be removed, for which Let-pass, if the Quantity sold be 240 lb. he is to pay 3 d., and so in Proportion for all that is sold; and that the Officer at the same time shall enter into his Book, what Wool the Manufacturer disposed of, that the Officer, &c. may make an Estimate, how at a Distance, without visiting the Manufacturer, and so have an Eye upon them, to see whether they sell any Part of their Wool.

THAT all Sellers of Wool, Noiles, Tops, Yarn, &c. upon removing the same, shall take a Let-pass as often as the same are removed, for which Let-pass, 3 d. shall be paid for every Pack, and so in Proportion; and if any be found removing from one Place to another without a Let-pass, from and after the Day of
 such Wool, Noiles, Tops or Yarn, or any thing that is capable of being manufactured, as aforesaid, shall be forfeited, and the Person offending shall forfeit three Fourths of which Forfeiture and Penalty, and of all other Forfeitures and Penalties to the Informer, and the other Fourth to the King's Majesty, and the King to prosecute; and all Persons who shall assist in such Removal, without a Let-pass, shall be subject to the like Penalty; all Prosecutions to be carried on at the Charge of the King: But no Wool, Noiles, Tops, or Yarn, which

is carrying to and from Spinning-Houses by Manufacturers, or their Servants, shall be liable to pay any thing for a Let-pass, but the same shall be given gratis; nor any Comber, Spinner or Weaver, fetching or carrying any Wool or Yarn to and from their Masters, or those by whom they are employed, to take any Let-pass.

THAT no Ship, Vessel or Boat, shall take on board any Wool or Yarn of *Great-Britain*, but such Ships, Vessels and Boats, as shall be registered for that purpose; and that every Master and Owner shall give Bond of not to Land the same in any Foreign Country, but at the Place appointed by the Cocket; and if any Wool or Yarn be found on Board any Ship, Vessel, Boat, Barge, &c. not registered, such Ship, Vessel or Barge shall be forfeited, together with all such Wool or Yarn that shall be on Board such Ship.

THAT if any Person or Persons shall, after the Day of pack any Wool, Worsted or Yarn, or any thing made up into Sham Goods, that can be reduced again into either Wool, Worsted or Yarn, into any Cask, Bale, &c. or in false Package of any kind, with or without other Goods, in order to be Exported to Foreign Parts, such Persons shall forfeit and all the Goods, that shall be pack'd along with such Wool, Worsted, &c. shall be forfeited, and Imprisonment; the Reward to any Person that shall discover the same.

THAT this may extend to *Ireland*, as well as *England*; but as *Ireland*, by the Laws now in being, cannot Export any of their Woollen Manufactories into Foreign Parts, and may be compared to younger Brothers, and ought to be provided for; as such it is therefore proposed,

THAT *Irelana* shall make what Worsted and Yarn they can, and send (what they cannot use for their Home Consumption) to *Great Britain*, which will give Labour to their Poor, and will be of Use to us, (for the Spinning is the hardest Money earned in all the Branches of the Woollen Trade) this Yarn to be sent over, Free from all Duties and Inland Charges, as well in *England* as *Ireland*: And when we come to have this Yarn, as the *French* and other Countries have it now, we shall employ our Hands in making it into Goods, which will be more

more advantagious to us than Spinning; and by this Turn of Trade, both *England* and *Ireland* may be Gainers, and, in a short Time, the good Effect will be felt, by Goods rising in their Price at Foreign Markets, and Wool will in course rise in its Price, in Proportion to the Goods wrought up; the *French* now use it, and mix their Wool with ours, and the Goods are all sold at Foreign Parts, and worn in some Part or other of the World, and no Wool in *England* or *Ireland* doth lie rotting for want of a Market; and when we have the Wool of both Kingdoms at Home, we may make our own Markets Abroad, and Wool will naturally rise in its Price at Home. And as the Ships and Sloops that are now stationed on the *Irish* Coasts, not answering the true End and Design of preventing the Owling of Wool to Foreign Parts.

IT is theretore proposed, That such Ships, Sloops, &c. now stationed to detect Smuggling, shall carry all Wool exported from *Ireland* to *Great Britain*, and Coast-ways in *Great Britain* and *Ireland*.

THAT if any Wool or Yarn shall be found or discovered to be removing from Place to Place, which shall be loaded upon any Waggon, Cart, or on any sort of Carriage or Vehicle, or on Horses Backs whatsoever, for which a Let-pass hath not been taken, or if it shall be found out of the nearest Road or Common Road, to or beyond the Place of Abode of the Person to whom it is permitted, or beyond the Time limited, it shall be deemed, *designed to be Run or clandestinely exported*, and if seized, such Wool and Yarn, together with such Carriages and Horses, with all Geers and Furniture which shall be made use of, for carrying or conveying such Wool or Yarn, shall be forfeited, and also by the Person whose Property it shall appear to be.

THAT when any Wool or Yarn is found to be removing or carrying from Place to Place, any Person whatsoever shall have Authority to demand a Sight of the Let-pass, and in case of Refusal, to stop and seize such Wool or Yarn; and if any Person or Persons whatsoever, shall beat molest or hinder any Person or Persons so stoping and seizing any Carriages, Wool or Yarn, or shall riscue, or attempt to riscue any Carriages, Wool or Yarn, &c. so stop'd or seized, they shall be deemed as Felons, and shall be prosecuted as such.

THAT

THAT if any Person shall suspect any Wool or Yarn, &c. on board any Ship, Vessel, Barge or Boat, or in any Place designed to be Run, on Application to any Justice of the Peace, he shall grant a Warrant to the next Constable, who shall be aiding and assisting in making Search; and if such Wool or Yarn shall be found, if on board any Ship, Vessel, &c. and the Master consenting thereto, and is done with or by his Consent, such Ship, &c. to be forfeited with all her Rigging, and such Wool or Yarn that shall be found on board shall be forfeited, and Penalty by the Person whose Property it shall appear to be.

THAT Ten Commissioners be appointed as by the Act of the 1st of *William and Mary*, Five of whom to make a Board, and those Commissioners to meet once a Week, or oftner, to settle all Affairs and Matters that shall come before them: These Commissioners to meet in *London*.

THAT there be Five Sub-Commissioners in each Country in *Great Britain and Wales*, and that they do, every three Months in the Year, send an Account to the Commissioners in *London*, what Wool is shorn and pull'd in their respective Counties.

THAT the Commissioners appoint a sufficient Number of Clerks, and all other Officers for the Purposes aforementioned, who shall transmit an Account to the Commissioners for that Division or County, together with the Cash received in each Month: But as some Counties are large, there may be more Commissioners, if thought necessary.

THAT these Officers, so appointed, be well skilled, and to have thorough Knowledge in Wool, and the Woollen Manufactories.

THAT the Members of Parliament for each Country, have Power to superintend the Proceedings of all the Commissioners, their Officers and Agents, that shall be employed for the Purposes above; and if upon such Complaint, it shall appear that such Commissioner hath misbehaved, or any other Person employed by or under them, to have Power to remove and displace any such Commissioner, &c. and upon the Death or Removal of any Commissioner, to appoint a new one.

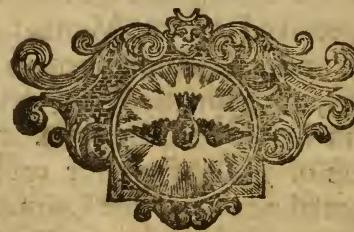
THAT such Members also have Power to examine, and to make Enquiries into the Conduct and Management of all Proceedings, and to

to signify the same to the Commissioners for the County, who are hereby required to Attend, and lay their Proceedings before them.

THAT all Farmers, Growers of Wool, &c. who shall be in any manner injured by any Commissioner or Officer, for which (if Satisfaction shall refuse to be given by the Commissioners) they shall have Power to hear and determine the same upon Oath, and to order Satisfaction to the Party injured.

THAT these Commissioners with the Consent of the Members of Parliament of each County, do ascertain the Sallaries of all Officers to be appointed, who are to be paid out of the Monies arising by Letters-Passes.

THAT if these Proposals should be made into a Law, that it may be read in *Great Britain* and *Ireland* at every *Affize* and *Quarter Sessions* for the County, and every *Market Town*, Four times a Year at least, upon the Market-Days, by the proper Officer or Officers; and for Neglect of Reading, the Officer above, shall forfeit for every Offence or Neglect, that no Person whatever may plead Ignorance.



F I N I S.



Observations on British wool, and the
manufacturing of it in this kingdom